August 27, 2021

**Important ISSS Announcements**
- Submit Your Fall 2021 Reporting EForm
- DHS Registration Reminders for F-1/J-1 Students
- Know Your Rights in the US (August 31)—**Special ISSS Event**
- RSSW Course Opportunity with ISSS!
- The Basics of Writing in an American Classroom (September 2)—**Special ISSS Event**
- Cultural Connections Welcome Party (September 3)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Policy Information
- Apply to the Diversity Equity & Inclusion and Well Being Student Advisory Board!

**Upcoming Events:**
- Block Party (8/29)
- Graduate Student Resources Fair (8/27)

Follow us on Instagram [@ualbanyisss](https://www.instagram.com/ualbanyisss)
Email us at [ISSS@albany.edu](mailto:ISSS@albany.edu)
Schedule a [Zoom appointment](https://calendly.com/ualbanyisss1/phoneadvisement) with us:

**Walk-In Advising** is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:30pm-4:00pm. Stop by Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172.

**New International Student Orientation Feedback Needed**
We would like to know your thoughts on the Fall 2021 International Student Orientation. Your feedback is
very important and needed! Please help us by completing the evaluation. If you would like to be entered into the prize drawing, please leave your name and email at the end of the evaluation. You can find the evaluation at this link: https://forms.gle/sxegyBTYYnun9S6Y6.

Please Submit Your Required Fall 2021 Reporting EForm

This Eform must be completed by all international students by September 3, 2021. To access this EForm within the ISSS system please click here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/94087.php. Step by step instructions are provided.

In response to DHS guidance International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) urgently needs information from you about your plans for Fall 2021. This will allow us to accurately report information to SEVIS and the University.

Additionally, students with a new or initial status SEVIS I-20 who are in the United States will provide the ISSS office with required information and immigration related documents through this form.

We understand that your plans for Fall 2021 might be uncertain and could change, but we ask that you please respond now based on your current plans. If your plans change then you can immediately submit a new Fall 2021 Reporting eform or email ISSS@albany.edu.

Details on the evolving COVID-19 situation, including vaccines, quarantine, testing, resources, FAQs, and policy guidance announcements are available on our website.

DHS Registration & Reporting Reminders for F-1/J-1 Students

F-1 and J-1 students must be registered full-time or on an approved reduced course load as a condition of maintaining F-1 and J-1 status. For undergraduate students 12 or more credits is full-time. For graduate students 9 or more credits is full-time.

Students may only drop below full-time registration if they have first been granted a reduced course load authorization by the ISSS office (more information on applicable reasons for a reduced course load is available here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/89007.php).

In order to help students maintain status, a bar will be put in place which will prevent F-1 or J-1 students from dropping below full-time registration credits starting August 29, 2021. This means that you will not be allowed to drop a course after that time unless you were approved for a reduced course load by ISSS. If you qualify for a reduced course load but have not yet submitted a reduced course load authorization
request please do so as soon as possible. Processing times can take up to 7-9 business days, and if you submit the request late you may accrue tuition liability as a result.

If you are trying to swap classes while maintaining full-time registration please add the new course you want first and then drop the course you no longer need.

Please be aware that 0% liability for dropped semester length courses ends on August 29, 2021. More on financial liability can be found here: https://www.albany.edu/cost-aid/financial-liability-dropping-courses-or-withdrawing

If you have any questions please contact ISSS@albany.edu

**Know Your Rights in the US (August 31)**
5:30-7:30pm on Zoom.
Zoom Link- https://albany.zoom.us/j/96115284668?pwd=VWpBLzJUNWpZUnVvcThJUnZWWWZiQT09

Join Immigration Attorney Jim Milstein and ISSS staff to learn more about your rights in the U.S. in relation to your immigration status and interactions with federal and local law enforcement as well as the judicial system.
RSSW Course Opportunity with ISSS!
RSSW Course

- Aug 27 - Course Introduction
- Sept 17 - Building Intercultural Understanding
- Oct 15 - American Cultural Patterns Explored
- Oct 29 - Fostering Critical Awareness
- Nov 12 - Cross-Cultural Competence

Meet the Instructors

MICHAEL ELLIOTT - PHD
Director of International Student and Scholar Services
International education leader with 25+ years experience in international education

CHENGYAN MENG - PHD CANDIDATE
Graduate Assistant of International Student and Scholar Services
Research is focused on knowledge community analysis in international education and international student experiences
In the fall semester we are offering a 1 credit International Service Course (through the RSSW program) which is 35 service hours total commitment.

In order to meet the requirements of the 1 credit International Service Course (RSSW), which is 35 services hours total commitment:

- 24 hours will be applied toward meeting with the new student assigned to you for 1.5 hours/week for 16 weeks.
- 9 hours will be a series of four 2-hour classes at 2-4pm, Friday afternoons, and one 1-hour orientation at the beginning of the semester.
- Finally, 2 hour of Cultural Connections activities RSSW students can choose from to complete the 35 hours. The classes/workshops will be mainly in-person and focus on topics on fostering critical awareness/consciousness, building intercultural awareness, and understanding yourself as a globally/interculturally competent individual, and as a global citizen. Classes will also help you learn more about the role of volunteer service in our society, and give you the opportunity to engage in volunteer service.

Once you agree to participate RSSW course, at the beginning of fall 2021 semester, we will send you instructions on how to register for the 1-credit RSSW 190 (what we call International Service Course) so that it appears as part of your overall UAlbany fall 2021 course registration.

1 credit RSSW course is designed for undergraduate students, graduate students can participate on a voluntary basis but will not earn academic credit for the program. Instead, graduate students will earn a certificate issued by ISSS office. We welcome graduate students who are interested in the course to join us. If you have any questions, please send an email to ISSS@albany.edu.

The Basics of Writing in an American Classroom (Sept 2)
The Basics of Writing in an American Classroom
Thursday, September 2
3:30pm-5:00pm
Zoom Meeting ID:
940 4070 7913
Must log in with UAlbany Zoom Account

Brought to you by the ISSS Office.
3:30-5:00pm on Zoom
Zoom Link—https://albany.zoom.us/j/94040707913

Writing is a process, as is adjusting to new cultural and academic expectations. Attend this workshop for some tips and insights.

Cultural Connections Welcome Pizza Party (Sept 3)
MEET & GREET

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
2-4PM

LOCATION: PARENTS FOUNTAIN
(IN FRONT OF SCIENCE LIBRARY)
PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED!!!

2:00-4:00pm in the garden between the Science Library and Campus Center.
Meet other international and internationally minded students, including members of the Buddy Program. Enjoy some pizza with new friends!

**COVID-19 Vaccine Policy Information**

For the latest vaccination and COVID-19 arrival requirements, please visit the Vaccinate UAlbany page: [https://www.albany.edu/covid-19/vaccinate-ualbany](https://www.albany.edu/covid-19/vaccinate-ualbany)

**Apply to the Diversity Equity & Inclusion and Well Being Student Advisory Board!**
DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

USE YOUR VOICE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHY: We want to empower students to share their perspectives on the intersections of diversity equity and inclusion and student well-being services on campus.

WHAT: Diversity Equity and Inclusion Student Advisory Board focused on student well-being.

WHO: A representative and diverse group of UAlbany students.

WHEN: 6 meetings, 2021-2022 academic year - 1st meeting in October. Applications are due by September 15th.

More Info & Application

$250.00 GIFT CARD

SCAN ME
The University is actively seeking graduate and undergraduate students to be members of UAlbany’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-Being Student Advisory Board. This initiative is being funded by a Student Affairs mini grant—all advisory board members will be compensated $250 for their work. This advisory board has been designed to empower students to engage in meaningful social justice advocacy and to increase community connectedness. We will be launching the advisory board in October and will be accepting applications until September 15th. CLICK HERE for more detailed information and to access the application.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Advisory Board’s group co-facilitators, Drs. Laura Longo and Shantel Powell @ llongo@albany.edu and slpowell@albany.edu

Student Advisory Board Mission:

The central goal of the student advisory board is to focus on the intersections of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and services that support student well-being on campus, specifically, services related to mental and behavioral health. The student advisory board will be comprised of undergraduate and graduate students who represent a broad range of diverse identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+, disability status, first generation, older adult learners, student Veterans, students in recovery, international students, etc.). Gathered feedback will be shared with Directors of related departments (Counseling and Psychological Services, Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research) to inform future efforts related to the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of culturally responsive programming and services that support and promote student well-being. The advisory board will begin meeting in October for a total of 6, 1-hour virtual meetings throughout the course of the 2021-2022 academic year. Student advisory board members will be provided $250 in compensation for their work over the 2021-2022 academic year.

Block Party (August 29)  Graduate Student Resource Fair (Aug 27)
11:30am-1:00pm on the Podium

The Block Party is your chance to meet all of the student organizations. Come out and learn more about our orgs, watch performances and enjoy! The theme is Y2K!

Read More

11:00am-1:00pm in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Join us for the 2021 Graduate Student Resource Fair. This event is an opportunity to learn about campus services, meet The Graduate School Staff and Graduate Student Association Executive Board members.

Read More

Unsubscribe

1400 Washington Avenue SL G-40 Albany NY 12222

ISSS@albany.edu
https://www.albany.edu/iss

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