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This is the Weekly ISSS Newsletter that we send out every Friday. It includes very important immigration updates that you must be aware of, as well as information about events happening on campus and in the area.

Are you a part of a student organization and want to see your event advertised to your fellow students? Please send the details and/or flyer to ISSS@albany.edu.

Table of Contents:

Important ISSS Announcements
- Full-time Registration Requirements for F-1 and J-1 Students
- Reminder: Please complete the required reporting Eforms for Fall 2020
- Demographic Data Check in MyUAlbany: SEVIS USA address, SEVIS Foreign address, email address, and phone number
- ISSS Office Operations for Fall 2020
- USCIS Updates: Fee Changes, New I-765 Edition, and I-9 Update Due to EAD Delays
- Recording of Understanding and Connecting with the American, NY, and Albany Community with Returned Peace Corp Volunteers

Upcoming Events
- First OPT Workshop on 9/4!
- Know Your Rights in the U.S. Workshops
- Download the GlobalProtect VPN
- Delta Phi Lambda Sorority Events
- Education Abroad Fair
- Library Workshops- Research Process, Plagiarism, and Citation
Full-time Registration Requirements for F-1 and J-1 Students

As a condition of maintaining F-1 and J-1 status, F-1 and J-1 students must be registered full-time or on an approved reduced course load. 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 on the evening of Friday, August 28th which will prevent F-1 or J-1 students from dropping below full-time registration credits. This means that you will not be eligible to drop a course after that time unless you were approved for a reduced course load. 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.

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

Reminder: Please complete the required reporting Eforms for Fall 2020

Due to the hybrid and remote learning environment and current DHS guidance ISSS requires certain information from students to complete the reporting requirements for Fall 2020.
All students are required to complete the Fall 2020 Reporting Eform, available here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/94087.php. Please complete this form to report whether you are taking classes inside the U.S., outside the U.S., or taking no classes in Fall 2020.

Additionally, all new students who are in the United States to begin their new program (not continuing students or students overseas) are also required to submit the New Student US Arrival (Fall 2020 Reporting Part 2) Eform, available here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/91193.php. This Eform asks a new student to upload copies of their immigration documents, including passport, visa, I-20/DS-2019 and I-94, for immigration reporting.

Thank you for your cooperation in completing this form(s) as soon as possible to ensure timely immigration reporting and compliance.

Demographic Data Check in MyUAlbany: SEVIS USA address, SEVIS Foreign address, email address, and phone number

As part of maintaining their status, F-1 and J-1 students must report updates to their physical address, phone number, and email within 10 days. This reporting is done through the Demographic section of MyUAlbany. Please check your information now to make sure it is up to date. Instructions are available here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/89000.php

Special note for students living outside the U.S.: If you have lived in the U.S. previously, please leave your SEVIS USA address as your most recent U.S. address. If you have never lived in the U.S., you are not required to report a SEVIS USA address at this time.

ISSS Office Operations for Fall 2020

ISSS will continue to provide remote advisement and programming to students this term. While our physical office location in SL G-40 will remain closed, we are here for you and best reached by email (ISSS@albany.edu) or Zoom advising appointment, which you can schedule through our website (please click read more below). Document processing requests are proceeding as normal through use of our Eforms. Please continue to check our newsletter for updates and events which
we will offer virtually throughout the semester so that you are able to engage with us no matter where you currently are in the world.

**USCIS Updates: Fee Changes, New I-765 Edition, and I-9 Update Due to EAD Delays**

USCIS issued an announcement last night regarding Form I-9 Verification During EAD Production Delays Due to COVID-19, which you can read in [full here](#). This notice allows for the temporary use of an I-797 EAD approval notice (not a receipt notice) as a List C # 7 document that establishes employment authorization (but not identity) for I-9 purposes. To qualify, the I-797 approval notice must have "a Notice date on or after December 1, 2019 through and including August 20, 2020." I-797 approval notices with Notice dates outside this range will not qualify (meaning that any approval notices issued after August 20th wouldn't qualify under this announcement). Employers who use this flexibility will have to re-verify the employee on Form I-9 with the actual EAD (or suitable other combination of documents) by December 1, 2020.

USCIS is also increasing the filing fee for several of its forms, effective October 2nd. After October 2nd, the I-765 filing fee (used for OPT and other work authorizations) will increase to $550, and the I-539 filing fee (used for changes of status and reinstatement) will increase to $390 for online filing and $400 for paper filing.

Additionally, USCIS will be requiring an updated edition of the Form I-765 dated 08/25/2020 for applications postmarked on or after August 25, 2020. This is the form used to file for employment authorization, such as OPT and/or STEM OPT.

The current edition of Forms I-765 and I-765WS, dated 12/26/19
- Will be accepted if the application is postmarked before Aug. 25, 2020
- Will not be accepted if the application is postmarked on or after Aug. 25, 2020

The updated edition of Forms I-765 and I-765WS, dated 08/25/20
- Will be accepted if the application is postmarked on or after Aug. 25, 2020
- Will not be accepted if the application is postmarked before Aug. 25, 2020

**Recording of Understanding and Connecting with the American, NY, and Albany Community with Returned Peace Corp Volunteers**

Miss the August 26th presentation about understanding and connecting to Americans? Then take a look at this inspiring and informational conversation with a panel from the RPCV (Returned Peace Corp Volunteers) of Northeastern New York. These Albany area RPCVs have lived and volunteered abroad in various countries; they understand the excitement and challenges of adjusting not only to another culture, language and system but also the experiences of returning back home to the U.S. Our panelists welcome you to New York and are very interested in
supporting your student success so they have provided their email addresses and have expressed interest in offering another Zoom presentation panel (which we will tell you more about soon). After viewing their Aug. 26th presentation recording, feel free to reach out and ask questions to these RPCV New Yorker panelists, request tips and suggestions from them, and learn even more about Americans and their culture.

**Topic: Understanding and Connecting with the American, NY, and Albany Community**

Meeting Recording: [https://albany.zoom.us/rec/share/6M9nLeHp-jhlWJWX-FCYQ00mBI73T6a81CJMrglOyE9BNA38p3oymFl7vN10QiKX](https://albany.zoom.us/rec/share/6M9nLeHp-jhlWJWX-FCYQ00mBI73T6a81CJMrglOyE9BNA38p3oymFl7vN10QiKX)

**RPCVs of NENY information Panelists Contact Information:**

[https://rpcv-neny.org/](https://rpcv-neny.org/)
[https://www.facebook.com/RPCVsofNortheasternNY/](https://www.facebook.com/RPCVsofNortheasternNY/)
rpcvneny@gmail.com

Casey O’Neil (Moldova; 2017-2019)- coneill108@gmail.com
David Gittelman (Zaire (DR Congo); 1982-1984)- gittelmand@bellsouth.net

Anthony Swingruber (Paraguay; 2015-2017)- aswingruber@gmail.com
Renée St. Jacques (Cameroon; 2014-2016)- st.jacques.r@gmail.com

If you would like to learn more after watching the RPCV panel presentation, view the orientation module Managing Faculty Relationships ([Managing Faculty Relationships FA2020.pdf](/courses/FA2020/Files/ManagingFacultyRelationships.pdf)), which explains further some of the cultural patterns, dynamics and dimensions behind certain American customs, behavior and communication (or for one of the most comprehensive expositions on why Americans believe and behave the way they do, check out American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective by Edward Stewart and Milton Bennett - [https://www.amazon.com/American-Cultural-Patterns-Cross-Cultural-Perspective/dp/1877864013](https://www.amazon.com/American-Cultural-Patterns-Cross-Cultural-Perspective/dp/1877864013))

**Upcoming Events**

**First OPT Workshop on 9/4!**
**Know Your Rights in the U.S. Workshops**
Friday, September 4th, 3:30pm-5:00pm EST
ZOOM: https://albany.zoom.us/j/97903173322

Join us for the first OPT workshop of the semester. More dates will be available soon, as well as a recording of past workshops on our website.

Monday, August 31, 6:00-7:00PM EST
ZOOM: https://albany.zoom.us/j/98416422232

Thursday, September 3, 4:30-5:30PM EST
ZOOM: https://albany.zoom.us/j/98052597426

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. Please note that both workshops are identical so you can choose the time which works best for your schedule.

Download the GlobalProtect VPN

This secure VPN is key to accessing secure systems off-campus and overseas. Click Read More for instructions from ITS if you don't already have it downloaded to your device.

Delta Phi Lambda Sorority Events

Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc will be hosting class recruitment events. Please click "Read More" for the full flyer. Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc advocates Asian awareness, empowers women leaders through it's values
based programs, and forges everlasting sisterhood through diverse shared experiences.

Education Abroad Fair

Wednesday, September 2, 11:00AM-2:00PM EST
Join the first virtual UAlbany Education Abroad Fair on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 via Handshake. Learn about the 80+ study abroad, research, internship, and service learning options UAlbany has to offer, and ask any questions that you may have. While there may be lot of uncertainty in today’s society, you can still plan ahead. Registration is available on Handshake, click “Read More” below.

Library Workshops- Research Process, Plagiarism, and Citation

Friday, September 4, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am (E.S.T)
Library Workshop I: Introduction to Research Process
What is a research paper, steps in the research process, choosing a research topic, finding background information and articles, using research databases, and hands-on exercises.

Friday, September 11, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am (E.S.T)
Library Workshop II: What is ‘Plagiarism’ All About? How to Avoid It?

Friday, September 18, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am (E.S.T)
Library Workshop III: Citation Practice
For more information or to register, please email Yu-Hui Chen at ychen@albany.edu

Professional and Career Development in Preparation for the Job and Internship Fair

Friday, September 4, 2020, 1:00pm-2:00pm (E.S.T)
Zoom: https://albany.zoom.us/j/94574533689

Virtual Job and Internship Fair

The Office of Career and Professional Development will offer job and internship fair virtual sessions in September-October. For more information, contact career@albany.edu.
Join Kathleen Gargan, Assistant Director of Career and Professional Development, to learn more about how to be prepared for the upcoming Fall Job and Internship Fair events in September and October.

Unsubscribe

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