

November 2007 OISS Newsletter

General Information

Office Information

The Office of International Student Services (OISS) is located in 201 Student Center. The office is open all year long except during official University holidays. **Please feel free to call or stop by the office anytime between 2-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, or Friday** if you have any questions regarding any F-1 or J-1 immigration matters, or the services available to you through the OISS. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions are important to us because we are here to serve you. **Please note that morning meetings (between 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.) are available by appointment only.** Please be sure to call the office ahead of time in order to schedule a morning appointment, and thank you for helping us to serve you better!

Office Staff

Leeanne Johnson: 226-4130
Director of International Student Services
(ljohnson@regent.edu)

Leah Taylor: 226-4130
Graduate Assistant
(leahtay@regent.edu)

Office Hours & Location

Location: 201 Student Center
Phone: (757) 226-4130
Fax: (757) 226-4100

Walk-in Hours: 2-5 p.m. Monday,
Wednesday, and Friday

--Morning meetings are by appointment only.--
<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/>

Important OISS Staffing Notice

Please note that **Leeanne Johnson** will be out of the office for an immigration conference from Wednesday, November 7th through Friday, November 9th. Please plan accordingly and be sure to submit any immigration requests around these dates.

Daylight Savings Time!

“Fall Back” and “Spring Ahead”

On November 4th, Daylight Savings Time will end and the days will become much shorter. On Saturday, November 3rd, everyone in the eastern part of the U.S. will move their clocks back one hour to return to Standard Eastern Time before they fall asleep. Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour on Saturday night (for example, from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m.) or else you will be 1 hour early for everything on Sunday! In the Spring, we will all “Spring Ahead” by turning our clocks ahead one hour.

OISS November

Shopping Shuttle Service

This Fall, 07 semester, the OISS introduced a Shopping Shuttle Service for our currently enrolled international students. The service was advertised by email and by campus-wide posters. The shuttle ran each Friday during the month of October. **After assessing the shuttle usage and the student feedback, the office decided to adjust the service to one trip per month starting in November.** The destination will also change from the Kemps River Shopping Center (with Farm Fresh and Dollar Tree) to Wal-Mart. **The November shuttle will run on Friday, November 30.** The shuttle will depart from the front of the Student Center promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will bring the students back to the Regent Commons and Regent Village around 8:30 p.m. Please note that the future of the OISS Shopping Shuttle Service will be contingent upon the international student usage.

The November OISS Newsletter contains information about the following topics:

General Information:

- Office Information
- Important OISS Staffing Information
- Daylight Savings Time
- OISS November Shopping Shuttle
- Weekly OISS Email Messages & Student Responsibility
- ISO List Serve
- New Handouts & Bulletin Board in the OISS

Upcoming Events:

- Overview of Employment Rules & Options for F-1 Students
- Overview of Employment Rules & Options for J-1 Students
- International Education Week
- F-1 Student Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- OISS Fall Trip to Monticello
- F-1 Student Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Immigration Information:

- Departing the U.S. Soon?
- I-20/DS-2019 Travel Signature Deadlines
- Attention F-1 and J-1 Students: Check your I-20s and DS-2019s!

Weekly Email Messages from the OISS & Student Responsibility

The weekly email messages from the OISS contain important immigration information that all F-1 and J-1 students with I-20s and DS-2019s are responsible for knowing, so all F-1 and J-1 students are expected to take a minute to read the message each week. If you are an F-1 or J-1 international student and you are not receiving the weekly email messages from the OISS, please contact Leeanne Johnson immediately at: ljohnson@regent.edu. Thanks very much, in advance, for your prompt attention to this important matter.

International Student Organization (ISO) List Serve

Students who are not receiving email messages from Regent's International Student Organization (ISO) and would like to be included on that list serve should send an email to: ISO@regent.edu.

New Handouts and Bulletin Board in the OISS

The OISS has a slightly new look with a bulletin board and a wall rack for our new forms and handouts for your convenience. If you haven't done so already, stop by and have a look!

Immigration Information

Departing the U.S. Soon?

For a complete list of everything you will need for a smooth reentry into the U.S. after a temporary departure, please read the OISS webpage entitled, "Departing the U.S.". This page should be read several weeks prior to your departure. If you have any questions or would like the OISS to check your documents before you go, be sure to visit the office from 2-5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

DEADLINE to Request I-20/ DS-2019 Travel Signatures for Thanksgiving and Christmas Break Travel

Please note that the deadline to request a travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019 for Thanksgiving Break travel is **Thursday, November 8, or two weeks before your departure, whichever comes first**. The deadline to request a travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019 for Christmas Break travel is **Wednesday, December 5, or two weeks before your departure, whichever comes first**. Each travel signature is valid for 12 months at a time, so check to see if you have a travel signature and make sure that it will not expire before the date you will return to the U.S.

Attention F-1 and J-1 Students: Check your I-20s and DS-2019s!

All F-1 and J-1 students should check the end-date on their I-20s and DS-2019 forms. If the program completion date on your I-20/DS-2019 is this December and you are not graduating or completing your studies/your degree this December, then you **MUST** apply for an F-1/J-1 program extension right away. Program extension applications must be submitted at least 45 days in advance of your program end-date. Please contact the OISS immediately if this situation pertains to you.

Upcoming OISS Events

Overview of Employment Rules & Options for F-1 Students

**Friday, November 2, 3:00 p.m.
Student Center, Room 112**

Employment is considered to be the rendering of services for compensation—financial or other. Working in the U.S. without proper authorization, and/or for more hours than permitted are serious violations of the F-1 status which can lead to severe consequences, such as deportation. All F-1

international students who are considering employment in the U.S. are encouraged to attend this session, which will cover the five types of employment options available to them as well as the rules and regulations for working in the U.S. We look forward to seeing you at this session! *Special Note: Self-employment is not permitted for F-1 students, and F-2 dependents are not permitted to work in the U.S. under any circumstances.*

Overview of Employment Rules & Options for J-1 Students

Friday, November 2, 4:00 p.m.

Student Center, Room 112

Employment is considered to be the rendering of services for compensation—financial or other. Working in the U.S. without proper authorization, and/or for more hours than permitted are serious violations of the J-1 status which can lead to severe consequences, such as deportation. All J-1 international students who are considering employment in the U.S. are encouraged to attend this session, which will cover the two types of employment options available to them as well as the rules and regulations for working in the U.S. We look forward to seeing you at this session!

International Education Week

Monday, November 12 –

Friday, November 16

Be sure to check the ISO email messages for student related events and opportunities that will be offered during this special week of International Education.

F-1 Student Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Thursday, November 15, 3:00 p.m.

Student Center, Room 112

All F-1 students who plan to do a mandatory academic internship during the Spring '08 semester are required to attend one CPT Session this fall before the OISS can process their CPT application. CPT is explained, the application process is discussed, and CPT applications are distributed at this session.

Sessions will start on time, so please do not be late. Attendance will be taken.

OISS Fall Trip to Monticello

Saturday, November 10,

9 a.m.-8/9 p.m. (approximate times)

The Office of International Student Services is planning a free international student trip to Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson, in the mountains of Charlottesville, Virginia. There is no fee for tickets or transportation, but you will need to bring a lunch. Spaces are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Students who wish to attend the trip must send an email message to Leah Taylor (leahtay@regent.edu) by noon on Tuesday, November 6th.** The bus will leave at 9 a.m. from the front of the Student Center. **Additional information will be provided through email messages for those students who reply by the deadline, so be sure to check your Regent email carefully!**

F-1 Student Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Friday, November 30, 3:00 p.m.

Student Center, Room 112

All F-1 students who are planning to apply for OPT this fall must attend an OPT session this fall. OPT applications will be distributed and the application process will be explained. F-1 students cannot apply for OPT this fall without first attending one session, and all OPT applications must be submitted to USCIS before your academic program completion date. The session will start on time, so please do not be late. Attendance will be taken. The final OPT session for the fall term will be held on Thursday, December 6 at 3 p.m.
