General Information

The Office of International Student Services (OISS) is located at 201 Student Center and is open all year long except during official University holidays. Please feel free to call or stop by the office anytime Monday-Friday, between 2-5 p.m. if you have questions regarding any F-1 immigration matters, or the services available to you. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions are important to us because we are here to serve you. Morning meetings between 9 a.m. – noon are available by appointment, so please call the office ahead of time in order to schedule a morning appointment. Don’t forget to check our website for important forms and information. Regent.edu/OISS

Thank you for helping us to serve you better!

Ms. Heidi. Decker  
Director & PDSO  
(757) 352-4130  
hdecker@regent.edu

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Graduate Assistant  
(757) 352-4951  
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Topics included in the January-February 2015 OISS newsletter are as follows:

- General Information:  
  --Office Hours & Staff Information  
  --Welcome, New Students!  
  --January-February Birthdays  
  --Cold Weather Tips

- Getting Involved & Upcoming Events:  
  --Getting Involved & Student Fellowship  
  --COGS Potluck Dinner  
  --Spring 2014 “Taste of the World @ the Ordinary”

- Immigration Information  
  --Spring Workshops  
  --Reminder About Online Courses  
  --Change of Address Reminder  
  --Email Messages from OISS  
  --Health Insurance

- Important Tax Filing & 8843 Information  
  --Watch Your Mail  
  --8843 Forms  
  --Tax Filing Assistance Software

January & February Birthdays!

Congratulations and blessings to the following students who are celebrating their birthdays in January and February:

Danni Hang  
Oxana Kravtsevich  
Esther Migan Dassi  
Michelle Alvarez

Its Cold Out There!!!

The OISS website has a document on “Cold Weather Tips” to assist with your adjustment to the United States weather. You can find it under OISS/Current Students/Cold Weather Tips. Stay Warm… Stay Healthy!

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2015

Welcome New Students!

The OISS was delighted to welcome 5 new international students to the Regent campus for the Spring 2015 semester. Please help to offer a warm Regent welcome when you see them on campus!

Joanna Ajex Palvannan –Psychology & Counseling  
Ji-hyun Kim –Law  
Ivan Papish – Business/ Entrepreneurship  
Shreya Shukla – Communication & Arts  
Sarah Okoye – Communication & Arts
Important Tax Filing & 8843 Information:

Watch Your Mail for Important Tax Forms (W-2, 1042-S, 1098 Forms):
All students who were employed (including money earned through employment, internships and assistantships, CPT & OPT) in 2014 and/or received taxable scholarship funds in 2014 will need to file a U.S. FEDERAL tax return (1040NR or 1040NR-EZ), and a Virginia STATE tax return, this spring. The FEDERAL filing deadline will be April 15, 2015.

What do I have to do for taxes?

Did you work in the U.S. in 2014?
Yes

Did you receive a Non-Regent scholarship in 2014 that paid for anything other than Tuition & Fees?
Yes

File tax form 1040NR (or 1040NR-EZ) and Form 8843

No

Did you receive a Non-Regent scholarship in 2014 that paid for anything other than Tuition & Fees?

No

File Form 8843 ONLY

► Form 8843 **MUST** beFiled by ALL F-1 Students & F-2 Dependents Who Were Physically Present in the United States in the Year 2014: This form must be filed whether or not you received any U.S. income, scholarship, or grant funds.

► Students who WORKED in the United States at any time during 2014 should be receiving some tax forms in the mail (or via the internet) from their employers by the end of January. The type of forms that you might receive are called “W-2” forms.

► Students who received TAXABLE scholarship/ fellowship/grant funds in 2014 might receive a “1042-S form”. No Regent scholarships this year will be taxable, but if you are receiving funds from other agencies or organizations, you may receive a 1042-S Form and must file the Form 1040NR.

► For students who received U.S. income and/or taxable scholarship funds in 2014, the 8843 form should be filed **TOGETHER WITH** the tax forms 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ by April 15, 2015.

SPRINTAX.COM Tax Filing Assistance
As many of you know, the Office of International Student Services is negotiating a special group price for tax software through Sprintax.com. This software was created especially for foreign students who are unfamiliar with U.S. tax filing procedures and takes into consideration scholarships, tax treaties, and your “substantial presence” in the United States, necessary for the Form 8843.

Regent staff members are not qualified or trained to assist students with their individual tax filing questions, so please consider taking advantage of this special software offer if you need to file tax forms this year. This software is not necessary for filing the Form 8843 only. For those of you who only need to file Form 8843, OISS will hold a very short workshop on completing this form, or you may email the office and we will send you easy and detailed instructions on how to do it yourself.

The cost for the individual use is $12 for the Federal tax filing, and an additional cost for the Virginia tax return. Please contact Heidi Decker if you want to use this software.

**Quotes on taxation to help ease the pain:**

“...but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”
—Benjamin Franklin

“I hate paying taxes. But I love the civilization they give me.”
—Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

“There is no such thing as a good tax.”
—Winston Churchill

“When there is an income tax, the just man will pay more and the unjust less on the same amount of income.”
—Plato

“A democratic government is the only one in which those who vote for a tax can escape the obligation to pay it.”
—Alexis de Tocqueville

“For every benefit you receive a tax is levied.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Taxation without representation is tyranny.”
—James Otis

“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
—Jesus Christ
**Spring 2015 WORKSHOPS:**

The following are the OISS Spring 2015 Workshops:

- Thursday, Feb 5th @ 12pm: OPT
- Friday, Feb 6th @ 5pm: OPT
- Thurs, Feb 26 @12pm: TAX Form 8843
- Tues, Mar 3rd @ 12pm: TAX Form 8843
- Wed, Mar 25 @ 4:00pm: CPT & OPT
- To Be Announced: SPRINTAX tax filing

**Reminder about the Online Academic Credit Restriction:**

Please be reminded that federal immigration regulations require that students be enrolled full time every semester of their program, and only one 3-credit course may be taken online in a semester.

**Update/Change of Address Reporting Reminder:**

An accurate and updated local address and phone number is a requirement to be registered as “Active” in SEVIS each semester. Please make sure that you update your “Permanent” address in Genisys as your LOCAL Virginia address!!

**Email Messages from the OISS:**

From time to time, OISS sends email messages that contain important immigration information and reminders that all F-1 students with I-20s are responsible for knowing, so all F-1 students are expected to take a couple minutes to read the messages. If you are an F-1 international student and you are not receiving occasional group email messages, please contact Heidi Decker at hdecker@regent.edu.

**Health Insurance:**

Every F-1 student is required to maintain health insurance for the entire time they are present in the United States. If you need help finding a plan, visit OISS for help as we have brochures from various companies and recommendations for you. Make sure that you send a copy of each new policy to hdecker@regent.edu.

**Getting Involved & Student Fellowship:**

There are many offices on campus that provide activities and events that help to foster international and American student fellowship and community. One is the **Office of Student Activity and Leadership (OSAL)**. Director Roger Cheeks and Assistant Director Amber Steele organize special off-campus outings each semester for all Regent students. OSAL also oversees the many **Student Organizations** that exist at Regent in order to foster student fellowship, community, & leadership. Visit the OSAL website for activities and events offer: [http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_activities_and_leadership/home.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_activities_and_leadership/home.cfm)

Get involved with the larger campus community and enhance your overall experience in the United States!!

► For questions about these programs and activities, please contact the appropriate Directors/Offices:

- Mr. Roger Cheeks, Director of OSAL 352-4486, rogeche@regent.edu
- Ms. Amber Steele, Assistant Director of OSAL 352-4928, asteele@regent.edu
- Mr. Jason Peaks, Director of Campus Ministries 352-4295, jasope1@regent.edu
- Regent Commons Office, 352-4890

**COGS Potluck Dinner for International Graduate Students**

On Friday, February 20th, in the Regent Village Community Room, the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) has invited all international graduate students to enjoy a potluck dinner and discuss some of the activities and resources available to our students.

**Spring 2015 “Taste of the World @ the Ordinary”**

Every month the Regent Ordinary and the Office of Student Activities & Leadership (OSAL) sponsor an event called “Taste of the World @ the Ordinary”. Ethnic foods are featured from various countries/world regions and students are invited to share music and items from their home countries for a cultural display. Photos from previous events can be found on the Regent website at OISS/TasteOfTheWorld

► **Schedule for Spring Semester “Taste of the World”**

- February 25 (Black History Month): Benin
- March 25: Bangladesh
- April 22: Bermuda