

International Student Orientation & Other Special Programs

Office of International Student Services

The mission of the Office of International Student Services (OISS) is to provide programs and services that support the cultural, immigration, adjustment, and academic needs of Regent's international student community. The OISS also strives to educate, advise, and serve the international student and University communities on immigration rules, procedures, and benefits. Finally, the OISS maintains University compliance with governmental regulations and reporting to ensure the University's continued sponsorship of student visa holders. Additional information about the OISS can be found on our website at: <http://www.regent.edu/oiss>. All newly admitted students are strongly encouraged to visit this website as soon as possible.

Comprehensive Fall International Student Orientation Program

The Fall International Student Orientation is one of the major programming events organized by the OISS to assist new international students with their transition to Regent University and life in the United States. The orientation involves a wide range of subject matter, both academic and non-academic in nature, and all new and transfer F-1 and J-1 international students are required to attend. Prior to the orientation, new students will receive a comprehensive International Student Survival Guide to help them get settled as quickly and as smoothly as possible. International students need at least one week to recover from jet-lag and to get themselves settled with telephone/cell-phone service, bank accounts, furniture, groceries, etc. With Spring classes starting only 1-2 days after the University re-opens from the holidays, students who arrive in early January from overseas do not have the proper time needed for physical, mental, and emotional adjustment prior to the start of classes. In addition, there are no academic orientations offered in the Spring and Summer Semesters. For these reasons, international students coming to Regent from overseas are strongly encouraged to enroll in the Fall semester when the Orientation is held two weeks prior to the start of classes and one week prior to the academic orientations.

The comprehensive Fall International Student Orientation Program includes:

- Special assistance with getting settled, such as trips to local stores, banks, and cell phone providers; a campus tour; and a library tour.
- Information Sessions on "F-1 Immigration Rules, Responsibilities, & Benefits", "Campus Security & U.S. Laws", "Academic Expectations", "The Writing Center", "Cultural Adjustment", and more;
- The opportunity to get acquainted with other students, and with people and places on campus;
- Information and materials on programs and services available on campus and in the community.

Other OISS Programs & Services

Each semester the OISS organizes special outings for the international student population, which have included a trip to Monticello—the home of President Thomas Jefferson, in the mountains of Charlottesville, Virginia; and a trip to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. In conjunction with the International Student Organization (ISO), the OISS also organizes a campus-wide international event each year where all of Regent's international students participate in a grand celebration of cultures which may include a global fashion show, food samples from around the world, ethnic songs and dances, and cultural displays. All new students are encouraged to bring unique items,

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candies/snacks, and clothing from home so they can all contribute to this campus-wide event. Each semester the OISS offers special Information Sessions to help educate and remind Regent's student visa holders of their immigration responsibilities and benefits. Personal advising and assistance are also available from the OISS.

International Student Organization (ISO)

Many other programs and services for the international student population are organized and facilitated by the International Student Organization (ISO). The ISO is a student-led organization focused on creating a sense of community for international students and their families. The OISS provides special funding to the ISO, and the OISS Director advises the organization with the planning of various international student events in which all international students are invited to participate. Such events have included trips to Washington D.C., Movie Nights, Ice Skating events, a Christmas Dinner, and a Graduation Banquet. More information can be found on the ISO website: <http://www.regent.edu/iso>.