International Student Orientation & Other Special Programs

Office of International Student Services
The mission of the Office of International Student Services (OISS) is a three-part mission. The OISS strives to provide vital services that support the cultural, immigration, and academic needs of Regent’s international student community. We strive to educate, advise, and serve University employees on immigration rules, procedures, and benefits. And, we maintain University compliance with government regulations and reporting requirements. 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 two-day 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 an 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, most schools do not offer academic orientations for the Spring and Summer terms and that has proven to be problematic for the international students who are new to the United States educational system. For these reasons, all new international student visa holders are required to enroll in the Fall semester when the two-day Orientation is held two weeks prior to the start of classes and one week prior to the academic orientations. The only exceptions to this rule are for students attending Regent under the Handong exchange agreement (which requires spring enrollment), and students who will be transferring to Regent from other U.S. institutions. Transfer students who are admitted to Regent for a Summer term are required to be enrolled full-time in that first Summer term and must attend the mandatory International Student Orientation in the Fall. 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.
- 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
In addition to the International Student Orientation, the OISS offers a welcome reception/cookout for the international students at the start of each new academic year. The OISS offers “Special Events” and “Immigration Information Sessions” each semester and organizes special
outings for the international student population, including a trip to Monticello—the home of President Thomas Jefferson, in the mountains of Charlottesville, Virginia; and a trip to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Other services provided by the OISS include individual advising on immigration and adjustment matters, and the publication of special materials to help with your adjustment, such as the International Student Handbook, Monthly Newsletters, and this Pre-Arrival Information Packet. The OISS also processes all immigration requests of the currently enrolled international students on campus and handles all international student government reporting for the University.

**International Student Organization (ISO)**

Other activities 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 funding to the ISO, and the OISS Director advises the organization in the planning and implementation of various events in which all international students are invited to participate. Such events have included trips to Washington D.C., Movie Nights, International Chapels, Ice Skating Outings, and an annual Rose Sale fundraiser at the University Commencement where all international students and spouses are asked to volunteer. The International Student Organization (ISO) also organizes a campus-wide international event each year where all of Regent’s international students participate in a celebration of cultures. This event varies from year to year but has included a global fashion show, an international bake sale, cultural display tables, and country presentations. All new students are encouraged to bring clothing, toys/games, photos/posters, candies/snacks, and other unique items from home so they can all contribute to any cultural events on campus. The ISO Board elections are held in the Spring for the following ISO positions: President, Vice President, Treasure, Secretary, and Public Relations Officer. Students who serve on the Board are provided tuition scholarships. The ISO offers many events and opportunities for the international spouses to get involved in the Regent community, so be sure to have your spouse’s name added to the ISO list serve once you arrive at Regent. More information about ISO can be found on their website: [http://www.regent.edu/iso](http://www.regent.edu/iso).