



# International Student Orientation & Other Support Services



## Office of International Student Services (OISS)

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 and advise University employees about student 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 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, 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 Orientation is held in the 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 orientation 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 & J-1 Immigration Rules, Responsibilities, & Benefits", "Campus Security & U.S. Laws", "Academic Expectations", "The Writing Center", "Cultural Adjustment", "Driving in Virginia", and more;
- The opportunity to get acquainted with other students, and with people and places on campus; and
- 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/cook-out for Regent's international students at the start of each new academic year. The OISS offers 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.

## Student Services

There are many offices on campus that provide activities and services that help to foster international and American student fellowship and friendship. The Office of Community Life organizes special off-campus outings (called "Regent Goes to Town"), which have included trips to places like the Virginia Zoo, the Norfolk Admiral's Hockey Games, and the Chrysler Museum. The Office of Community Life also offers students the opportunity to work side-by-side and to serve the community through special volunteer service events, called "Regent Serves". Other offices offer social, cultural, and spiritual-type fellowship events for American and international students, such as the programming that is done by the Resident Assistants in the Regent Commons (Student Housing). The Office of Student Life organizes intramural sports events, such as soccer, flag football, basketball, ping-pong, etc. The Director of this office also oversees the many Student Organizations that exist at Regent in order to foster student community, fellowship, & leadership. The OISS encourages all international students to participate in the opportunities that are offered by various offices at Regent. Getting involved with the larger campus community and your fellow American students will greatly help to enhance your overall experience in the United States.

## **Support Services**

Various offices offer support services to assist students with any personal, spiritual, academic, or cultural/adjustment challenges or difficulties they might be experiencing. Please do not hesitate to make use of these offices and resources that are available to you on the Regent campus:

**Campus Ministries:** If you feel yourself in need of spiritual guidance or prayer, feel free to stop by the Campus Ministries Office at 328 Robertson Hall, or contact Director of Campus Ministries, Pastor Richard Kidd, at 757-352-4840 or [rkidd@regent.edu](mailto:rkidd@regent.edu).

**Career Services:** CS provides resume critiques, job search advice, interviewing assistance, and many other resources that can help you enhance your career opportunities. Email us at [careerservices@regent.edu](mailto:careerservices@regent.edu) or feel free to drop by 201 Student Center.

**Office of International Student Services (OISS):** The OISS understands what you are going through, and is always available to listen to the needs and concerns of Regent's international students. Please feel free to contact us at 201 Student Center, 757-352-4130, or visit the office website at <http://www.regent.edu/oiss/>.

**Psychological Services Center (PSC):** Located in the Classroom Building , Suite 188, the PSC offers a wide range of counseling and psychological support services. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the PSC at 757-352-4488, or visit their website at <http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/psc/>.

**Student Housing:** Regent University offers housing for both undergraduate and graduate students. For more information about on-campus housing visit [www.regent.edu/housing](http://www.regent.edu/housing), call 757-352-4890, or visit Constitution Hall 101.

**University Writing Center:** Located on the first floor of the Student Center, the University Writing Center offers one-on-one assistance for your writing needs. For an appointment, visit their website at <http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/writingcenter/>.