

# NEWSLETTER

COLUMBUS STATE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
SERVICES

International Student Services

Spring Semester 2019



## **Autumn Semester 2019 at a glance**

August 26, 2019—December 14, 2019

**April 15- Registration Opens**

**August 26 – Full Term Begins**

All F-1 students are expected to be registered in classes full-time for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. Additionally, 9 of your total credits must be on-campus courses, not online courses.

## **Traveling outside the U.S. during the summer?**

**Don't wait until the last minute, have your I-20 signed now!**

If you are planning to travel outside the United States during vacation break, please come by ISS's walk-in advising hours, Monday thru Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm, to get your authorized travel signature. No appointment needed. If your current travel signature is almost 1-year old, you should have your I-20 re-signed before leaving the U.S.

During the visit, remember to bring your passport, I-94, and current I-20. Our office will review your immigration documents and endorse your I-20 for travel.

### **In This Issue**

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- Scam targeting international students
- Web/Online classes
- Tax Responsibility
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- Maintain Status

For F-1 enrolled students, travel signatures or endorsements are valid for 12 months. For those on OPT, travel signatures are only valid for 6 months.

Upon return to the U.S., please report to ISS and bring with you photocopies of the following documents:

New visa stamp if you recently applied for or renewed your F1 visa.

Copy of the first 3 pages of your new passport with expiration date if you recently renewed your passport

## NEW SCAM TARGETING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ALERT 02/21/2019:



An international student reports that he received a call from a person claiming to be from the Social Security office. The student was given the telephone number of CIE to legitimize the call. The caller tried to get the student to provide personal information. Please know that the Social Security office will never telephone you. If Social Security has questions, they will send a formal letter to your home address. If you receive a call like this or any other suspicious call, hang up. Do not provide any personal information.

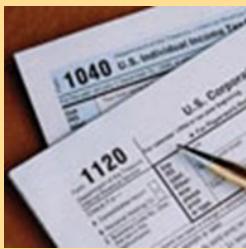
There are always new types of scams. Your reports of suspicious phone calls or emails help keep other students and scholars safe.

### Web/Online Courses Guidelines

**Be careful** to not enroll in too many online courses and not enough campus courses! As an international student, you must be registered for 12 credit hours each semester in which you are enrolled. The federal government requires that least 9 credit hours be on campus (not online). After you are registered for 9 credit hours, the remainder of your 12-minimum requirement can be online courses, but they do not have to be. CSCC also offers “Blended” courses, or courses that are partly online and partly in-class. Blended courses are identified by the letter ‘B’ in the course number (i.e ENGL-1100-B01 -28456). If you are ever unsure your course load does not fulfill the requirement, make an appointment with an International Advisor before classes begin to double check.



## Tax Responsibilities for International Students



F1 international students and their dependents (F2 visa holders), who were present in the U.S. during any portion of the past calendar year, **AND WHO DID NOT WORK**, are required by law to file the IRS form called **Form 8843**.

F1 students who **DID WORK during any portion of the 2018 calendar year**, are required by law to file the **Form 1040NR or the 1040NR-EZ** with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). You must file this form even if you do not think that you will owe taxes for the 2018 tax year. See below for helpful information concerning how to file taxes with the IRS.

### Who can help prepare your income tax return?

If you do it yourself, it is free. [Tax preparation companies and Accountants](#) (listed in the yellow pages online) can offer assistance for a fee. Be sure to ask if they have experience filing the 1040 NR and other U.S. tax issues.

### Where to File and How Long to Retain Photocopies

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recommends that photocopies of all tax returns must be kept by the taxpayer for a period of seven years or longer, in case the IRS ever has questions regarding information provided on the tax return.

The IRS does not allow electronic filing for nonresident aliens, so all internationals will need to send in their tax return by U.S. postal mail. Forms 1040NR and 1040NR-EZ are mailed to the **Internal Revenue Service Center**, check [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for specific regional mailing addresses.

You can access an electronic copy of your 1098-T through CougarWeb.

**Please note:** The purpose of this information is to give non-resident F-1 students general information about tax responsibilities in the U.S. The staff at ISS are not trained in taxation, and therefore cannot answer specific tax questions or help you to prepare your tax forms. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to meet your tax obligations and do so accurately. Please contact a tax advisor if you need assistance with your particular case.

### Resources from the IRS Web site

<a href="#">International Taxpayer</a> Provides links to other resources on the IRS Web site.	<a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers</a>
<a href="#">Non-Resident Alien Toolkit</a> This is a publication with a PDF Slideshow and FAQs.	<a href="https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4152.pdf">https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4152.pdf</a>
<a href="#">For information about tax filing for State taxes in Ohio</a>	<a href="http://www.tax.ohio.gov/">http://www.tax.ohio.gov/</a>
<a href="#">For information about city taxes</a> Contact the city income tax department for the city in which you live.	Columbus, Ohio: <a href="https://www.columbus.gov/incometaxdivision/">https://www.columbus.gov/incometaxdivision/</a>
<a href="#">IRS Link and Learn Foreign Student VITA Volunteer Training and Testing</a> Foreign Student Course	<a href="http://www.irs.gov/app/vita/foreign_student.jsp">http://www.irs.gov/app/vita/foreign_student.jsp</a>

# SPOTLIGHT ON.....

**International student and staff spotlight highlight current international students' time at Columbus State**



My name is Even Bahta. I am from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. I am from a big family with six brothers and five sisters. This is my first time out of Ethiopia. I am pursuing an Associate Degree of Science with a focus on Biology and planning to transfer to OSU.

I enjoy watching and playing soccer with my friends and family. My favorite soccer team is Manchester United. My dream vacation would be to go to see Manchester United play Arsenal. I would go to see them play anywhere!

One of the most famous tourist sites in Ethiopia is Lalibela. I visited there once when I was 8. It has a lot of history and is registered in UNESCO as a place of Heritage for Ethiopia. You can try Ethiopian cuisine at the Lalibela restaurant in Columbus. Be prepared to eat with your hands, but the food is delicious!



My name is Regita Fusanti, and I am an international student from North Sumatra, Indonesia. I am currently working toward my 2-year-prerequisite courses in the Medical Laboratory Science program at both Columbus State Community College and The Ohio State University. I will start my program at OSU this Fall 2019. I love taking classes here at CSCC because I can meet a lot of people from different backgrounds, I get individual attention in my small size classes, and most importantly, there are many incredible opportunities that CSCC offers. For example, I got offered a Career Service Mentorship

program in which I am being paired up with a medical technician who shares insights with me about my future major and job opportunity. Good luck!





I'm Candace, the new F-1 Advisor at CSCC. I started working here in December and I've loved meeting students from all over the world! I love traveling as much as I can, and meeting people and learning about different cultures is one of my greatest passions. I was a student at CSCC in 2009 (yes, I know, I'm old!) and finished my degree at OSU. Afterwards, I moved to Madrid, Spain as an ESL teacher for 3 years. I loved the Spanish culture and food, but I missed my family so much! Living abroad can be difficult, but the lifelong friendships and experiences you'll gain make it completely worthwhile. My favorite memories include trekking the Sahara Desert, traveling to Portugal and Greece, and skydiving and paragliding in Spain! I'm always up for a new adventure, the crazier the better!



## Student Group Spotlight: Asian Student Association

Founded in 2011, the Asian Student Association (ASA) serves as the largest Asian culture affinity group at Columbus State. We welcome students of all races and nationalities, as we aim to spread awareness of Asian culture for the benefit of the student community. Join ASA through CougarConnect to learn more about what ASA hopes to accomplish this year, what events ASA will have, and how you can get involved!



# Maintaining Your F-1 student status:

## Full-time Enrollment

Please be aware that your [academic advisor](#) and representatives of other college offices may not know about the F-1 full-time requirement. Be sure to make them aware of the requirement when discussing course registration options.

## F-1 Student Employment

If you are interested in finding more information regarding regulations related to employment while studying in the United States, go to [ICE.gov](#).

**Please note:** Do not work without authorization. Unauthorized employment is a violation of your F1 status leading to termination of SEVIS record. If your I-20 is terminated for "Unauthorized Employment," you must depart the country immediately. For an on-campus job search, go to [www.cscc.edu](#), click on "ABOUT", then scroll down to the Employment field.

If you have any questions regarding employment opportunities or work authorizations, please schedule an appointment to see me (JoYin Tang) by calling 614-287-2074.

## Graduating F1 Students

If you are a graduating student, file a "petition to graduate" form by the "petition to graduate" deadline date. Submit a photo-copy of the petition to the International Student Services office, Madison Hall, Lower Level and schedule an appointment to meet with the P/DSO (Principal/Designated School Official) to discuss F1 student options upon graduation. Your options upon completion of your studies at CSCC are:

- Depart the U.S. within 60 days of completing the course of study or apply for OPT.
- Continue in F-1 status by pursuing further F-1 studies at another school.
- Apply for standard post-completion optional practical training 90 days before graduation date or program end date and no later than 60 days after completing your course of study.
- Apply to change status to another non-immigration classification no later than 60 days after completing the course of study.

## Travel outside the U.S

If you are planning to travel outside the United States during semester break, you must have page 2 of your SEVIS I-20 Form signed by one of the College's DSOs. The signatures are good for one year (except during OPT). Bring with you to the appointment your passport, I-94, and current I-20. Our office will review your immigration documents and endorse your I-20 for travel.

Upon return to the U.S., please report to ISS and bring with you photocopies of the following documents:

- New visa stamp if you recently applied for or renewed your F1 visa
- If you recently renewed your passport, copy of the first 3 pages of the new passport including the expiration date page
- Form I-94: to access your electronic I-94 admission document, go to [www.cbp.gov/i94](#)

For more information on student travel: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2014/06/know-before-you-go-international-students-and-summer-travel>

