



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Annual Summer Vacation Eligibility:** You are eligible for the annual vacation in the Summer semester if you intend to continue to enroll for Autumn Semester 2021 AND the program end date on your I-20 does not expire until AFTER September 2021.
- **I-20 Travel Signature:** Before you travel internationally, check page 2 of your current I-20 and if the travel signature will be more than one year old at the time you plan to return to the U.S. then you need to email jtang4@csc.edu to renew it **before leaving** the U.S.
- **Students completing your academic program in Spring 2021:** If you are planning to transfer to another institution after Spring Semester or completing your degree requirements this May or August, you are required to plan in advance (SEVIS Transfer or shorten your I-20 program). Please email jtang4@csc.edu for the next step instructions and available options.
- **Have you updated your personal information?** You are required to keep your address up-to-date and report any changes within 10 days of moving for the duration of your time as an F1 student in the U.S.!
 - Update your addresses in CougarWeb: (Access “CougarWeb” - “User Profile” - “Update Profile”), AND
 - Inform ISS by emailing jtang4@csc.edu to have that information reflected in your SEVIS record, as well.



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Autumn Semester 2021 at a glance

August 30, 2021—December 18, 2021

April 19 - Registration Opens

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

International student and staff Spotlight highlights current international students' time at Columbus State



Hi! My name is Chinue Mutiso. I am an international student at Columbus State pursuing an Associates in Psychology with hopes to transfer to Ohio State to major in clinical psychology and criminology. I like to say I'm East African because I was born and raised in two different countries (Kenya & Tanzania). I currently reside in Dar es Salaam a coastal city in Tanzania. Due to the transition of studies to virtual learning, I thought it would be best if I were to study from home. Travelling during the pandemic is not a fun or enjoyable experience, wearing a mask constantly for 12+ hours made me appreciate essential workers even more. The only upside would be the ample leg room due to unoccupied seats on flights.

Tanzania would say is a very beautiful country and the weather is even better if you are a person who enjoys summer. Aside from being the country that hosts the tallest mountain in Africa (Mt Kilimanjaro) there is all kinds of terrain which makes it a good country if you enjoy adventure and local travel. We have the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater which are natural wonders of Africa and the beautiful Zanzibar Island. As a predominately Swahili speaking country, I would say the people here are very kind and warm and welcoming. As an avid lover of the beach, I would say that is one of the best things about being in Dar es Salaam and Tanzania in general.



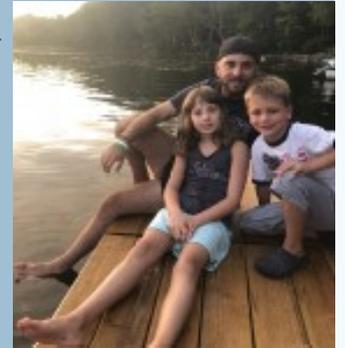
I personally am looking forward to coming back to Columbus and making new memories and meeting new friends. I think Columbus State and especially the International Student Association serve as a good community for anyone to join because you get a sense of home away from home and everyone is very kind and helpful.





My name is Aitor J. Perez and I am from Barcelona, Spain. I moved to the United States in 2017 as an Au pair, taking care of two beautiful children which have become my family here, and the mother of the little ones even considers me as her eldest son. After two long years of having spent great moments and having met wonderful people in this city, I decided to start a new degree as a software developer, so I was recommended to CSCC. It is my first year as a student here, and even if COVID has changed my freshman year; I am thankful for the opportunity I have.

To be honest, I was a little bit nervous with all the process for the admission but my advisor Candace Allen helped me a lot by keeping me informed throughout the process by making sure I got everything I needed for my visa. Another difficulty I had with starting school was taking my first online semester. It was a little challenging at first, but I feel like I got the hang of it now. I am very excited for the next couple of college years that are ahead of me. Maybe I would see you around!



My journey to the US was nothing short of an adventure. This was the first time I have ever travelled out of my country by myself without any idea of the procedure or what to expect. A journey is already stressful by itself. A journey in a pandemic is a whole dynamic altogether. Imagine having to make a 30-hour trip, relying on all sight through a plastic shield and your mouth and nose covered with 2 masks throughout. The joy and relief I experienced upon my arrival to the US was something I will never forget. This was the first time my independence and adaptability was fully exercised. What made me the most excited, however, was all the snow – I had never seen snow before I came here. I am very grateful to all my friends and family for virtually accompanying me throughout the trip. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Candace Allen from the ISS for providing me with all the necessary documents and guidance that helped me with my trip.



Starting college as a freshman online is very different from going to physical college. It is much harder to interact with people and make friends. The whole idea of college life during COVID-19 is very strange and requires a lot of getting used to. On the upside, you can attend your classes in pajamas which I think is pretty awesome!





DON'T LET OLD MAN WINTER KEEP YOU INSIDE!!!

Many places have had to shut their doors due to the pandemic, but don't let that stop you from enjoying Columbus and heading out for some fun!!!

- [Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#)
- [Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#)
- [LEGOLAND Discovery Center](#)
- [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#)

Free Things To Do in Columbus

- [Wexner Center for the Arts](#)
- [German Village](#)
- [Short North Arts District](#)
- [Columbus Museum of Art](#)
- [The King Arts Complex](#)
- [Franklin County Metro Parks](#)



**THE
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
ASSOCIATION**

*Invites
You!*



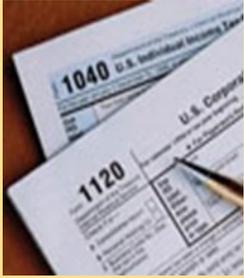
**TO JOIN OUR STUDENT LED GROUP
WITH OVER 100 MEMBERS!**

**WE CONNECT & BRING TOGETHER
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT CSCC**

**JOIN US NOW THROUGH
COUGAR CONNECT!!!!**



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 2020 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 2020 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 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

International Taxpayer	https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-
Non-Resident Alien Toolkit	https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4152.pdf
For information about tax filing for State taxes in Ohio	http://www.tax.ohio.gov/
For information about city taxes Contact the city income tax department for the city in	Columbus, Ohio: https://www.columbus.gov/incometaxdivision/
IRS Link and Learn Foreign Student VITA Volunteer Training and Testing Foreign Student Course	http://www.irs.gov/app/vita/foreign_student.jsp

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 your 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.csc.c.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 (email jtang4@csc.c.edu.)

Graduating F1 Students

If you are a graduating student, file a “petition to graduate” form by the “petition to graduate” deadline date. Submit a photocopy 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 signature is 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>