

# NEWSLETTER

International Student Services

Spring Semester 2020



**Autumn Semester 2020 at a glance**  
August 31, 2020—December 18, 2020

**April 20- Registration Opens**  
**August 31 – 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 considered to 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 during walk-in advising hours, Monday, Wednesday from 1 pm to 3 pm or Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm. No appointment needed. You should have your I-20 signed before traveling if your travel signature is before, or close to, the one-year mark on the previous signature.

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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- *COVID-19: Protect Yourself and others from getting sick*
- Student & ISS staff Spotlight
- Tax Responsibility
- Student Success Series
- Maintain Status

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

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 and expiration date page of the passport if recently renewed your passport

Form I-94 - to access your electronic I-94 admission document, go to [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94)




# COVID—19


## *Protect Yourself and others from getting sick*


- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw the tissue away immediately and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough;
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider;
- When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of a novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals;
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk, or animal organs should be handled with care to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.


 **World Health Organization**


### Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak


   It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis. Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle - including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends. 

 Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency. 

 Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak. 

### Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing **cover mouth and nose** with flexed elbow or tissue 

 **Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use**

**Clean hands** with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water after coughing or sneezing and when caring for the sick 

 **World Health Organization**

# SPOTLIGHT ON.....

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



Hello, my name is Dianna Brackbill and I work in the International Student Services office here at Columbus State. I specialize in working with new immigrants and visa holders that are in the U.S. on a temporary basis.

I attended OSU and received a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies, with a focus on East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea). I have traveled to Japan, Germany, and Poland.

I am so happy to be able to work with students from all over the world, as I have been interested in learning about other cultures for as long as I can remember. I have been volunteering as an English conversation partner for many years. I have had conversation partners from China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Brazil, and Poland.

I am happily married to my husband of 22 years, Sam, and have a daughter named Sally. My family also enjoys hosting international students in our home for holiday celebrations and dinner parties. We have even hosted international students to live in our home for short periods of time.



I'm Ricardo Brum. I am originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and I'm doing an Associate of Communication degree at CSCC to transfer to Ohio State as a Journalism Major.

I grew up with a passion for languages, enrolling in online German classes at 13 and teaching myself Japanese writing at 15. Now, I'm able to speak English, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Japanese and am taking my second semester of Chinese.

Before moving to the U.S., I had also lived in Finland for six months, to learn more about their educational system. There, I was able to stay with a host family because of Rotary International and experience a culture completely different to my own. After Finland, I lived in Argentina for over a year, where I worked part-time and attended a language institute to further learn German and Japanese.

I chose Columbus State for its affordability to International Students and its location in a growing area of Central Ohio. And I couldn't be more satisfied. The staff has been incredibly helpful and understanding; I've also been able to use the campus' resources to aide my studies and participate in clubs like the ISA.

I'm looking forward to making more memories here!



## International Student Association ISA



The ISA is a student run organization at Columbus State. Our mission is to provide out-of-classroom learning experiences through field trips, cultural events, and various other social events.

ISA is made up of Columbus State students and staff from 110 countries around the world. We coordinate fun and educational activities for our students and students from other colleges and universities, to give you a chance to meet other students and develop leadership skills as an officers or committee members.

### Past activities

- Pot-luck dinners (Ethnic and American)
- Celebrate U.S. Holidays - (Valentine's Dinner, Thanksgiving Dinner, OSU New Year Celebration, Halloween Costume Party)
- Camping/picnic at area parks
- Participated in Volleyball City League
- Trips to places of interest (Washington DC, Columbus Zoo, Museums, Chicago, Amish country, etc.)
- Fund-raising for the club and for local charities
- Fund-raising for Easter Seals
- Join programs and activities with other International students from other schools
- Coordination of International Education Week
- Give culture and country presentations to Columbus State classes, staff/faculty in-service





## The International Student Success Series ARE YOU TRANSFER, CAREER, OR WORKFORCE READY?

Spring Semester 2020

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

#### TRANSFER UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE VISIT (OSU)

Thinking about transferring to one of our Preferred Pathway partner institutions? An OSU international admission representative will be on campus presenting a workshop to talk about the admissions requirements and deadlines.

RSVP strongly recommend. [jtang4@csc.edu](mailto:jtang4@csc.edu).

Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

11—12 pm

MA 103

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

#### F1 WORK AUTHORIZATION: OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

International students who will soon be graduating and are interested in applying for Post-Completion OPT are required to attend this OPT workshop. In this work- shop, an ISS advisor will cover the regulations and policies for eligibility and maintain status, time frame to submit your OPT application materials, tips, and help.

RSVP Required [jtang4@csc.edu](mailto:jtang4@csc.edu).

Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

1—2 pm

MA 103

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

#### F1 WORK AUTHORIZATION: CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

Are you interested in working off- campus in your major field of study before graduation? ISS is offering CPT workshops to go over in detail the application process, student responsibilities, and other important considerations.

RSVP Required [jtang4@csc.edu](mailto:jtang4@csc.edu).

Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

11—12 pm

MA 103

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

#### ONE-ON-ONE APPOINTMENT WITH TRANSFER UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE

**Tentative and details to be announced.**

It is a great opportunities for our 200 F1 international students to connect with representatives from universities and four-year colleges across Ohio. Those are the popular institutions where our students choose to transfer to. You can make a one-on-one 20 minutes appointment with our transfer partner to meet and talk about university admission requirement and deadline.

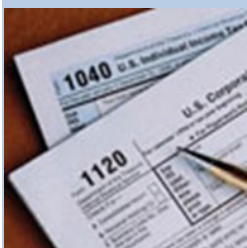
Space is limited with specific date and time, RSVP required.  
Appointment sign up sheet is available in the ISS office.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.

10 am—2 pm

MA 103A

# Tax Responsibilities for International Students



Most international students (Nonresident Aliens) are not eligible to claim education tax credits with the U.S. Internal Revenue Services (IRS.) International Students who may be eligible are: Permanent Residents (PR), married to a U.S. citizen or PR, those who may claim as a dependent by a U.S. citizen or PR, or those who have been in the U.S. long enough to file federal income tax returns as a resident. You can ignore the email you received earlier from the College if it is not relevant for your taxes. For more information about eligibility, see IRS Publication 970. Columbus State cannot provide tax advice. For additional information, you should contact your tax advisor or the IRS.

Nevertheless, all international students who lived in the United States in the previous year should file at minimum the Form 8842. If you received income, either through employment or through a scholarship, you would file the 1040NR.

## 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 your tax return by mail. Forms 1040NR and 1040NR-EZ are mailed to **Internal Revenue Service Center**, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for mailing address.

## 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 of help you prepare your tax forms. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to meet your tax obligation and do so accurately. Please contact a tax advisor if you need assistance with your particular case.

## Resources from the IRS Web site

<u><a href="#">International Taxpayer</a></u> 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>
<u><a href="#">Non-Resident Alien Toolkit</a></u> 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>
<u><a href="#">For information about tax filing for State taxes in Ohio</a></u>	<a href="http://www.tax.ohio.gov/">http://www.tax.ohio.gov/</a>
<u><a href="#">For information about city taxes</a></u> 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>
<u><a href="#">IRS Link and Learn Foreign Student VITA Volunteer Training and Testing</a></u> Foreign Student Course	<a href="http://www.irs.gov/app/vita/foreign_student.jsp">http://www.irs.gov/app/vita/foreign_student.jsp</a>

# 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.cscce.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 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 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>