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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, April 10, 2015

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter April 10

International Preview Day April 11

UNI International Admissions will be hosting a Preview Day for International students who are interested in attending UNI. All current international students are invited to attend the closing reception to enjoy cookies and share their UNI experience with prospective new international students. The reception will be held in Gilchrist Hall, Room 009 on Saturday, April 11 from 3:00-3:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Huster at Shelby.Huster@uni.edu.

Financial Literacy Month April 2015

The month of April is National Financial Literacy Month. To help celebrate the month, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships has coordinated a variety of presentations and activities to help you manage your finances now and well into the future. Through the month of April a series of speakers will be on campus discussing a variety of topics related to personal financial literacy. Each presentation will conclude with drawings for gift cards, books, or t-shirt prizes! Register for these sessions online at www.uni.edu/finaid/financial-literacy-month-2015.

Spring Diversity Showcase April 22

The most awaited ISA's annual big event is coming up! The annual Spring Diversity Showcase's theme this year is Diversifest. This event will be held April 22 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Coffee House (in front of Prexy's) Maucker Union. This event will include a variety of international traditional food, information booths, a fashion show, and performances! ISA is still in need of talents and participants for the fashion show. If you are interested in participating in the fashion show or showcasing your talent, it is never too late to sign up! Contact Bindhiya Jegatheesan at jegatheb@uni.edu to sign up.

Spring Graduation and Farewell Reception April 30

You are invited to a reception on Thursday, April 30 at 3 pm in Seerley Hall's Great Reading Room. Come and celebrate with us as we recognize international students who will graduate in May and as we say farewell to the exchange students who will be leaving us at the end of the semester. Enjoy tasty appetizers and graduation cake! Graduates and departing exchange students, if you plan to attend, please contact the International Students and Scholars Office by Friday, April 24 so we know who to expect and who to include in our program. You may call [319-273-6421](tel:319-273-6421) or send an e-mail message to international.services@uni.edu. The event is open to ALL international students.

Student Health Insurance - IMPORTANT!

The Student Health Clinic needs to know if you are going to leave the US during the summer break. You must email Connie Potter (connie.potter@uni.edu) or stop by the Student Health Clinic to give them the date that you are leaving and date you are returning to the US. The Student Health Clinic will suspend your insurance coverage during that time and you will not be charged. If you are not staying in the US and the Student Health Clinic does not hear from you, they will automatically leave you on the insurance plan assuming you are staying here. It is important for you to tell the Health Clinic before you go home as they cannot remove the coverage after you have left. You may choose to keep the coverage while you are abroad if you would like.

Employment Opportunities

CIEP is now hiring two office assistant positions for this summer. The positions would begin training in late April/early May, would be required to work full time (40 hours per

week) this summer, and continue to work 15-20 per week during the spring/fall semesters. The link to view the job description is available on the CIEP website at http://www.uni.edu/ciep/sites/default/files/u6/ciep_office_assistant.pdf, and it has also been posted on the UNI Campus Job Board. Any questions can be directed to Olivia Randolph at randolpo@uni.edu.

Join Cat Crew

The Cat Crew is made up of student leaders who facilitate UNI Now (the program following new student orientation) and provide an introduction to students transitioning to UNI. Volunteer Experience runs August 18-23. Applications are available April 1-10 and interviews are April 13 at 3:30 pm. Apply at <http://www.uni.edu/orientation>. For more information, contact Ashley Stewart at ashley.stewart@uni.edu.

Summer Storage Space Available

I am an international graduate student and I am offering storage space during the summer in my apartment for a low rental fee. The space is located on Jennings Drive and is available from May 15-August 15. Contact chavemaa@uni.edu or call [515-203-5253](tel:515-203-5253).

Full-Time Enrollment Requirement

This is a friendly reminder that all F-1 and J-1 students must be registered as full-time students. (12+ hours of undergraduate credit or 9+ hours of graduate credit). Being enrolled less than full-time without proper approval will result in the loss of your good immigration status and may prevent you from earning your UNI degree. Even worse, you could be arrested and deported from the USA! If you have questions, do not ask your friends, but ask the professional staff in the International Students and Scholars Office. You should review the reminders at this web page at least once per semester: <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/immigration-regulations>. Exceptions to the full-time rule are: certain academic difficulties (improper course level placement, initial difficulty with American teaching methods), medical/health reasons, final semester of study, and graduate students working full-time on research or dissertation. ALL of these exceptions MUST be approved by the Immigration & Visa Coordinator in advance!

Income Tax Season

Students may be hearing about W-2 forms and filing "income tax" returns for 2014. An income tax return is a report that you must make to the Internal Revenue Service (<http://www.irs.gov>) of the US Government for any calendar year when you earn income in the United States. If you did not have a job in 2014, you should still file IRS form 8843, available here: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>. You will only need to complete Part I and Part III before signing at the bottom of the form and sending it to the IRS at the address indicated in the instructions. April 15, 2015 is the deadline for filing 2014 tax returns!

Optional Practical Training (OPT) for Eligible F-1 Students

If you have an F-1 visa and you are planning to graduate in May 2015, now is the time to think about applying for Optional Practical Training as you are probably eligible for this 12 month period of employment authorization within the U.S. See our website for more information on OPT at <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/f-1-student-employment-information>.

You may also go ahead and schedule an application appointment with the Immigration and Visa Coordinator if you are ready to submit your application or if you have questions. Contact the Immigration and Visa Coordinator Ross Schupbach at

Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu for questions.

Academic Training for Eligible J-1 Students

J-1 students can consider Academic Training if they would like to work off campus in the U.S. before or after graduation. See our website for more information on J-1 Academic Training at

<http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/j-1-student-employment-information>.

You can also contact the Immigration and Visa Coordinator Ross Schupbach at Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu for questions and for a copy of the Academic Training Information and Application Guide.

International Student Profile Feature

The International Students and Scholars Office is excited to feature a new international student profile each week. To be featured, please submit the form found [here](#).

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ISSO Office Hours

ISSO office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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