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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, February 3, 2012

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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CIEP GIRLS ONLY NIGHT--TONIGHT!

Please see the attached brochure for more information.

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 U.S.A.! If you have questions, do not ask your friends, but ask the professional staff in the International Services Office.

You should review the reminders at this web page at least once per semester: <http://www.uni.edu/intladm/iso/responsibility.shtml>

Exceptions to the full-time rule are:

- o Certain academic difficulties (Improper course level placement, initial difficulty with American teaching methods)
- o Medical/Health reasons
- o Final semester of study
- o Graduate students working full-time on research or dissertation

ALL of these exceptions MUST be approved by the International Student Advisor in advance!

OFF CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT REMINDER

F-1 and J-1 international students are not allowed to work off-campus without permission from the International Student Advisor and/or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Please do not jeopardize your UNI degree by working illegally off-campus. For basic information about types of off-campus employment authorization, look here: <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/empguidelines.shtml> and choose "F-1 Student Employment Information" or "J-1 Student Employment Information".

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

ISA Meeting this Sunday!

The International Student Association (ISA) will be having its next meeting this Sunday at 4PM in the Oak Room of Maucker Union. We will be talking about some of our upcoming event - ISA Valentine's Day Dance, as well as other events happening this semester. It will also be a great opportunity to meet other international students on campus! Also, please 'like' our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ISAatUNI/> to get further updates on events and other fun stuff. Hope to see you at the meeting!

CAREER WORKSHOP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Services is happy to offer a workshop presented by UNI Career Services professional staff. This workshop is intended for students nearing the completion of their degree programs and who are eligible for F-1 Optional Practical Training or J-1 Academic Training. The topics will be: writing a resume, preparing for the interview, and finding resources for job hunting. The workshop will be very useful for those of you who would like to work in the US or to find an internship for the summer. The workshop will also help you to prepare for the UNI Career Fair on Monday, February 20, 2012. The workshop will take place in the Maucker Union Oak Room on Wednesday, February 8 from 3:00 p.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m.

INTERVIEW HELP WANTED

My name is Jordan Bokemper and I am looking for an international student to interview for my

intercultural communications class. If you would like to help, please call, text, email, or facebook me. My information is as follows:

Phone: [712-898-1889](tel:712-898-1889)

Email: bokempej@uni.edu

Let me know if this is alright with you, and thank you!

-Jordan Bokemper

INCOME TAX SEASON

Several students have come to International Services with questions about the W-2 forms they have received in the mail from UNI. These documents are needed for filing "income tax returns". An income tax return is a report that you must make to the Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov) of the U.S. Government for any calendar year when you earn income in the United States.

Unfortunately, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will not be available for international students this season due to technology and training problems. Students may be eligible to file returns using Free File, available from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at www.irs.gov. You may also hire the services of a tax preparation or accounting firm of your choice. The Yellow Pages of your telephone directory or other local business directories can guide you to providers of these services. International Services does not endorse any particular tax service providers, but we can share the following information that has been made available to us by H & R Block, a nationwide tax preparation service that students may choose to hire to prepare tax returns. They have prepared a message for UNI international students:

"Thank you for your interest in allowing H&R Block to help you with your tax preparation needs this year. We have 2 Tax Professionals that are waiting to prepare your 1040 Non-Resident returns this year. They are Melody Davis and Deb Schwickerath.

When you are ready to prepare your taxes this year, feel free to just stop on by. You may also chose to set up an appointment, but this is not required.

We suggest you bring with you all income statements, school tuition information, and your identification card. You will also need to provide any dates for when you entered the United States, as well as any absences from the US you may have had since that time.

The cost of the returns vary depending on complexity. We will gladly give you a price estimate before we begin the return. Furthermore, if you are dissatisfied with the service we provided you are under no obligation to complete and pay for the return.

We are located in the College Square Mall next to Regis hair salon and The Buckle.

Please feel free to contact us at [319-277-3925](tel:319-277-3925) with any questions, or to set up an appointment.

We look forward to serving you!

Deb Schwickerath, E.A.
Master Tax Advisor
H&R Block
College Square Mall
6301 University Avenue Ste 1010
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
[319-277-3925](tel:319-277-3925) Fax [319-266-5014](tel:319-266-5014)"

If you did not have a job in 2011, 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, 2012 is the deadline for filing all 2011 tax returns!