

11-21-2019

ISSO Weekly Newsletter, November 21, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, November 21, 2019

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour November 21!

International Coffee Hour during International Education Week will be held from 2-4 pm on Thursday, November 21 in the CME in Maucker Union. There will be international coffees to try as well as treats!

International Education Week November 18-22

International Education Week will be held on campus November 18-22. It will be a celebration of international education and culture. Various activities and events will be held on campus. See [International Education Week](#) for the schedule.

TESOL Friendsgiving November 21

TESOL Club will be hosting a Friendsgiving potluck Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 PM. This event will be held at the ThreeHouse at 2422 College St, Cedar Falls. It is walking distance from campus, at the corner of Campus St. and Seerley Blvd. There is a sign up sheet for those who would like to attend to sign up for a dish to bring. This should be a fun opportunity for UNI students to interact with international students and share some tasty food! We hope to see everyone there and if there are any questions, feel free to email us at tesolclub@uni.edu. [Sign up sheet](#).

International Students in Business Friendsgiving November 26

ISB is hosting a Thanksgiving lunch on November 26 from noon-2 pm at the Wesley Foundation, 2422 College Street. There will be food from Incredible India.

New International Payment Features

International students now have the ability to pay with Flywire using the Make a Payment link in Student Center. After logging in and choosing "Go to My Student Center", click on the Make a Payment link. You will have the option to pay by electronic check (US bank account) or International Payment via Flywire. The process to make a payment through Flywire will not change. If you have questions on making international payments via Flywire, visit our [International Bank Payments](#) website, or contact student.accounts@uni.edu.

Winter Clothing Drive

The International Student and Scholars Office has sponsored a winter clothing drive November 1-20. Coats, scarves, gloves, etc. are available to international students who are not prepared for the Iowa winter.

Thanksgiving Break ISSO Hours

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) **will be closed from Wednesday – Friday (November 27-29)** for Thanksgiving. ISSO will **reopen on Monday, December 2**. Make sure to stop by ISSO before November 27 if you have any issues that cannot wait until December 2.

Winter Break ISSO Hours

We also want to remind you that The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) **will be closed from December 23 – 27 (Monday to Friday) and on January 1 (Wednesday)** for the winter break. The Office **will reopen on Thursday, January 2**. **Please make sure to complete any immigration or advising business with ISSO before December 17**. Otherwise, it will have to wait until Wednesday, January 2, 2020.

Now is the perfect time to **check your immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019) for expiration so that there is time to extend** your status before December 17. For those who will **travel outside the U.S. over the winter break, please don't forget to check your I-20 or DS-2019** for a valid travel endorsement before you depart. In case of emergency, please call UNI Public Safety at 319-273-2712 or 911.

Thanksgiving Break Campus Dining Hours

Fall Break Campus Dining Hours during November 22-December 1 are [attached](#).

The Learning Center at Rod Library

All students are encouraged to use The Learning Center @ Rod Library for assistance with writing, math, science, and college reading and learning strategies. Beginning week two, The Learning Center (TLC) operates on a walk-in basis and is open 10:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday through Thursday. For more information, go to <https://tlc.uni.edu/tutoring>, email TheLearningCenter@uni.edu , call 319-273-6023, or visit the TLC desk located on the main floor of Rod Library. If you are unable to come in during normal tutoring hours, online tutoring is available through Smarthinking. You will need your CATID and passphrase to gain access. To access the Smarthinking platform go to <https://tlc.uni.edu/schedule>.

IMMIGRATION

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

If you hold F-1 status and you are planning to graduate in December 2019, now is the perfect 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 web site for more information about [OPT](#).

Travel Endorsement

If you plan to travel outside of the U.S. over the breaks and return to UNI to resume your studies, you must make sure that you have a valid **travel endorsement** on page 2 of your I-20 form or page 1 of your DS-2019 form. Travel endorsements are valid for one year, so new endorsements are only needed if your previous endorsement will expire before you plan to re-enter the U.S. If you are not sure if you need a travel endorsement, please check with us and we will be happy to review your documents.

Maintaining US Immigration Status

International students are responsible for **maintaining their U.S. immigration statuses**, and an important part of this is **always having a valid, unexpired I-20 or DS-2019 form**. We recommend that F-1 students check the "Program of Study" section near the center of their I-20 forms once per month to make sure they do not study past the program end date indicated in that section. J-1 students should always be aware of their DS-2019 form validity dates in section 3. Page 3 of all I-20 forms specifies that "If you cannot complete the educational program by the program end date on page 1 of your Form I-20, you should contact your DSO at least 15 days before program end date to request an extension." Ross Schupbach is your Principal DSO, and he is always happy to help when students need extensions.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

International Student Support Group

International Student Support Group starts on September 16 and will meet every Monday from 3:30-5:00 pm in the Student Health Center, 2nd floor. The International Student Support Group allows international students to share their experiences with others who can understand and relate to their concerns. To learn more about the group, you can consult a counselor by calling or walking into the counseling center from 8 am-4 pm, no appointment required. Contact 319-273-2676, Student Health Center, 2nd floor.

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Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

The University of Northern Iowa provides transformative learning experiences that inspire students to embrace challenge, engage in critical inquiry and creative thought, and contribute to society.



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