ISSO Weekly Newsletter
Thursday, December 12, 2019

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour December 12
Join us for the last International Coffee Hour of the semester in the International Students and Scholars Office, 113 Maucker Union from 3-4 pm.

Winter Clothing Drive
The International Student and Scholars Office winter clothing drive has been very successful. Coats, scarves, gloves, etc. are available to international students who are not prepared for the Iowa winter. Please come to 113 Maucker Union to pick up some items!

Maucker Movies and De-Stress Event December 12
The movies Good Boys will be showing on Thursday, December 12 in the Maucker Union Ballroom at 8 pm. At 7 pm there will be crafts. Bring your own pillows and blankets.

Lion King December 12
The Lion King will be shown tonight at 6 pm at the Threehouse: Wesley Foundation, 2422 College St., Cedar Falls.

December De-Stress Events at the CME
Chill Out with the CME de-stress activities December 13 at 3:30 pm. Make and Take Snacks all day December 16. Craft Day, December 17 all day. Study Sessions, December 16-19, 8 am-4 pm, quiet study space provided, tutors may be available. All events located in the Center for Multicultural Education in 109 Maucker Union.
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 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) as well as December 30, 31 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.

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.
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.

WANTED ADS

Babysitter Wanted
Looking for help babysitting/playing with two kids - a 4.5 year old boy and a 2.5 year old girl – at our house within walking distance from campus. Pay starting at $11 an hour. Hours and schedule negotiable. If interested, contact Oksana at oksana.grybovych@uni.edu or 319-830-0212.

Like and Follow Us!
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.

Copyright © 2019 University of Northern Iowa International Students & Scholars Office, All rights reserved.

Contact Information
International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Fall, IA 50604-0164
international.services@uni.edu
(319) 273-6421