

1-30-2020

ISSO Weekly Newsletter, January 30, 2020

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office., "ISSO Weekly Newsletter, January 30, 2020" (2020). *ISSO Weekly Newsletter*. 178.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, January 30, 2020

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour Every Thursday!

Join us for our International Coffee Hour every Thursday 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!

Resumes and Cover Letters Workshop for International Students February 5

Learn how to write a standard US resume, edit your current resume and write a cover letter. This workshop will be held on February 5 at 3 pm in Rod Library, Room 301. Be sure to bring your resume/CV.

Career Readiness Day February 5

All students are invited to take part in [Career Readiness Day](#) from 10 am-2 pm in the Learning Commons, Rod Library on February 5. Make your first impression count with a free headshot, LinkedIn and a resume review. Professional attire is recommended; no appointment is necessary.

Spring Volunteer Fair February 12

Network with more than 50 local nonprofit organizations as well as find volunteer and internship opportunities in the Cedar Valley. February 12 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Old Central Ballroom of Maucker Union.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Scholarship

The Iowa chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will be awarding \$1,000 grants to several international women students enrolled in Iowa colleges or universities. The applications and attachments must be completed and postmarked by April 1, 2020. Recipients will be notified by May 15, 2020. See [attachments](#) for application and criteria.

2020 Merchant Scholarship

This is to announce an annual scholarship opportunity for graduating seniors and UNI alumni pursuing graduate studies. Scholarships typically ranging between \$2000-\$4000 will be awarded for graduate study for the fall of 2020. Recipients must be attending, or planning to attend, an accredited graduate or professional school as a full-time student. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2020. Please refer applicants to <https://provost.uni.edu/resources/merchant-scholarships> where additional information and a link to the application materials are located.

2020 Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Awards

Applications for the 2020 Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Awards, which are administered by Rod Library, are now being accepted. The application deadline is April 3, 2020. These awards recognize and celebrate extraordinary research and scholarship on the part of under-graduate students through the generous support of alumna Mary Ann Bolton (Class of 1970). Three awards will be given: First Place - \$1,000; Second Place - \$500; Third Place - \$250. More information about the awards, including submission guidelines, is available [here](#).

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.

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](#).

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 meets 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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International Students and Scholars Office

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

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