

Published monthly by International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), a division of Enrollment Services, to provide reminders about immigration regulations, services, programs, and opportunities for involvement. Previous editions of the ISSS Newsletter are posted on the ISSS website under the “About” tab.

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Important Reminders



- **FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIRED:** Undergraduate - 12 credit hours. Graduates - 9 credit hours. Deadline for enrollment changes January 13th, 5pm.
- **REDUCED COURSE LOAD (RCL):** If this is your final semester, or you have a valid medical reason to be under-enrolled, the deadline to request an RCL via iStart is: January 13th, 5pm.
- **FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE:** Classes are automatically dropped if all unbalances on: January 17th, 5pm
- **IN CASE OF LATE PAYMENT or COURSE DROP:** You can go through the “Registration Adjustment” process to attempt to get back into classes once all tuition and fees are paid. Visit the Enrollment Services Center, or visit each faculty member individually and request this process. The process takes 3-4 days but does not stop the SEVIS reporting deadline. Failure to complete registration adjustment by the SEVIS deadline will result in termination of status. (SEVIS reporting is done by ISSS.)
- **CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT) APPLICATIONS:** CPT is temporary authorization for practical training directly related to F1 students’ major field of study. The deadline to apply for Spring 2017 CPT is Friday, January 20th at 5pm, no exceptions. For more information click [here](#).
- **ISSS WALK-IN ADVISING HOURS:** Need immigration advising? Meet with your ISSS advisor during Walk-In Advising (no appointment necessary): **Monday & Wednesday 9-11:30AM** and **Monday – Friday 1-4PM.** Find out who your advisor is [here](#).

Deadline: Spring 2017 Health Insurance Waiver Request



If you have adequate health and accident insurance from your country or another qualified provider, and you wish to waive the GSU insurance for Spring + Summer semester 2017, the waiver request period is open **until January 17, 2017.**

Coverage by the GSU plan began January 1, 2017 and ends July 31, 2017.

- **Note:** Waivers are not granted automatically, and you must renew your waiver each semester.
- ISSS cannot advise on the waiver process or guarantee coverage and benefits since that is your choice.
- If you’d like to keep your GSU Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), there is nothing you need to do.
- For more information click [here](#).

Tax Information 2017 (For Tax Year 2016): Plan Ahead Now



ISSS starts providing information about U.S. Federal and State of Georgia Tax Returns each Spring ahead of the tax-filing **deadline: April 15th, 2017**. What you need to know now is:

- **DON'T BUY** Tax Prep Software: like TurboTax, H&R Block or any others!
- Those products were **not** designed for “Non-Resident Alien” Tax forms.
- ISSS will provide free access to special software called “Sprintax” in February for your Federal Return.
- Only those who earned income during 2016 have to file complete tax returns.
- If you arrived in the U.S. at any time in 2017 for the 1st time, there is nothing to file this year.

ISAC - Welcome Dinner for New International Students



GSU welcomes 200 new students from 24 countries! New International students are invited by ISAC to dinner and a **free t-shirt!**

When: January 17th at 7 pm

Where: Dahlberg Hall (across from the Student Center East and Sparks Hall [pictured to the left])

Cost: Free

More Information: [Click here](#)

International Day with GSU Basketball: Georgia State vs Coastal Carolina



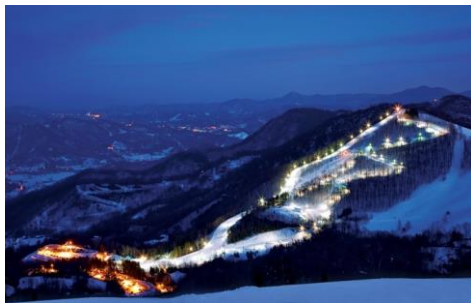
International Student Day with GSU Basketball is a great opportunity to have fun, learn about basketball, meet fellow students and enjoy free snack coupons!

When: Saturday, Jan 21, 2017 at 2:00 PM

Where: GSU Sports Arena

Admission: Just bring your Panther card with you.

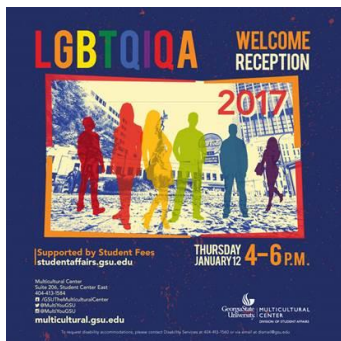
Ski & Hiking Trip to Maggie Valley, North Carolina, January 27-28, 2017



BCM is hosting a ski trip / hike, January 27 – 28th and you are invited!
Cost: \$125 for skiing/snowboarding or \$45 for non-skiers (hikers only). Includes equipment rental, lift tickets, lodging, breakfast and lunch. To sign up for more info: email Teresa Royall at troyall.bcm@gabaptist.org or call: 770-910-4316.

Deadline to sign-up: January 18th, 2017

Join the LGBTQIQA Welcome Reception



This reception welcomes members of the LGBTQIQA community and their supportive allies to the Multicultural Center each semester.

Dates: Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 4-6pm. There will be a student DJ and refreshments served.

Location: The Multicultural Center, Suite 206, Student Center East

For questions, please call 404-413-1584. To request disability accommodations, please contact Disability Services at 404-413-1560 or

email at: dismail@gsu.edu.

Join 2017 Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC)



What: “GILC” is an excellent weekend conference for international students and study abroad students from across Georgia.

Participants share ideas, present, team-build, network and above all, develop their leadership qualities and have fun! Our own Mike Townsend is Chair of the Conference again this year!

Conference Dates: February 17th – 19th, 2017

Registration Deadline: February 08, 2017

Payment deadline: February 10, 2017 / **Register** >> [Here](#) <<

Location: Rock Eagle, 4-H Center (Eatonton, GA)

Cost: \$100/ attendee (Refundable upon completion of the program)

Website: Please visit <http://gilc.weebly.com> for more details.

Video: Check out last year’s [GILC recap video](#)

Get Fit and Get Outdoors at Your GSU Recreation Center!



- **Try Me Week:** January 9-13. Try as many Instructional Clinics as you would like for FREE.
- **Georgia State Recreation App** – download it to visit different areas in the Student Recreation Center to gather information and prizes.
- **Did you know?** There is no additional fee to use the Rec. Center with valid Panther ID. Many classes are free too.
- **For more information** and open hours, please visit our website to see some of the many things you can do in [Your GSU Recreation Center](#):

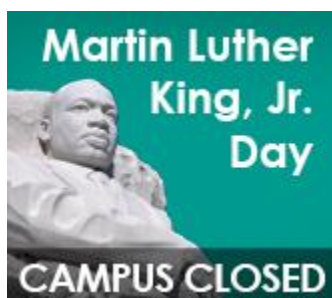
Learn to swim, swim laps, dry sauna, hot tub, nutrition counseling, fitness classes, rock climbing, kickboxing, Yoga, Pilates, Intramural Sports, Rafting, Camping, Snow Ski, Personal Defense, Billiards, ping pong, Martial Arts, Run Track, Check out a bike.... and many more!

Spring Semester Employment Workshops



- Need off-campus work authorization after graduation?
- Need a paid internship during your program of study?
- These benefits of your F1 visa are called OPT and CPT, and both require pre-authorization as well as completion of the free employment workshops offered by ISSS. [Sign up via iStart for the session of your choice.](#) More information is [here](#).

Campus Closed for National Holiday



Georgia State University will be closed: **Monday, January 16th** in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There will be no access to campus facilities, offices, or services. Click [here](#) for more information on the legacy of MLK Jr.

*You may notice a few streets and buildings in Atlanta are named after him.

*Atlanta hosts one of the biggest MLK Day Parades in the country.

ISSS Facebook Likes = 2,171



Just click the Facebook icon to the left to get helpful reminders about deadlines, workshops, events and campus jobs right on our Facebook page.

For questions about any of the information mentioned above, contact:

International Student & Scholar Services

Georgia State University

252 Sparks Hall

404.413.2070 (phone)

iss.gsu.edu

*On behalf of everyone in ISSS, we sincerely wish you
a successful and productive 2017!*