November 2016
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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1. International Recognition Night

What: ISSS and GSU Athletics would like to recognize and honor all international students and scholars at the 1st home basketball game of the season.
When: Friday, Nov. 11, 7pm
Where: GSU Sports Arena (where fall orientation was held). About 10 minutes before half-time, gather at the back hallway across from the snack stands on the 3rd floor. You’ll be escorted onto the court at half-time for a special honor. The scoreboard will also display facts & figures about our wonderful international population during the game.
How: Free ticket and snack voucher included. Pick up your ticket anytime at the Sports Arena ticket window on Decatur Street, or online at: http://GeorgiaStateSports.com/StudentAccountManager. For the snack voucher, find the voucher table when you enter the arena. Please email: breichert@gsu.edu to participate.
We hope to see you there!
2. Special Thanks to ISSS Student Assistants and Graduate Assistants

At this time of year, ISSS wishes to express thanks to our wonderful SA’s and GA’s. They are an important part of our work, and they help support all the services ISSS provides. We couldn’t do it without them! We are very grateful.

Please see a special tribute at the end of this edition.

3. Virtual Tour of GSU “You Visit”

Ever wanted to show your friends and family where you’re studying and what GSU looks like?

“You Visit” provides a beautiful, interactive tour of many GSU facilities with a virtual tour guide and easy-to-follow street map, too.

Just click this image in the lower-right hand corner of GSU Admissions

We hope you’ll spread the word!

4. USCIS Fees Increasing

United States Citizen and Immigration Service (USCIS) has announced fee increases. The higher fee must be included as of December 23, 2016 or your application will be rejected by USCIS. Those commonly used by F1 student include:

  Increasing from $380 to $410

- I-539 (Change of Status).
  Increasing from $290 to $370.
5. CPT / OPT Employment Workshops

**Final Workshops This Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>CPT (Part I)</th>
<th>OPT (Part II)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov. 16th</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>2:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 7th</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
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ISSS offers free, on-site CPT / OPT workshops to prepare you for these applications. Participation is mandatory before applying for CPT / OPT. All workshops are held in Sparks Hall, Room 248. For more info: click >> HERE. To sign up: log-in to iStart and click on the Session Sign-up tab.

6. Fall backwards

Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov 6, 2016, so “fall back” or turn back your clocks 1 hour on Saturday night, Nov. 5th. On Sunday morning, there will be more light, but evening will be dark sooner : (

7. International Education Week

*November 14-18, 2016*

GSU celebrates the 17th year anniversary of International Education Week (IEW) this month to recognize the benefits of international education and exchange. International Education Week is now celebrated in more than 100 countries! The complete GSU IEW Schedule of Events has fun, food and opportunity for all.

8. Annual International Thanksgiving Feast

As part of IEW each year, a great ISSS tradition is the International Thanksgiving Feast, Friday, Nov. 18th, 11:45 in the lobby of GSU’s Rialto Center for the Arts, 80 Forsyth St., SW. Reservation Required via iStart under “Session Sign-ups” in the left menu. Scroll to Nov. 18th on the calendar, select this event and sign up. Your reservation will be checked at the door, but no paper ticket will be issued. Limited to 150 participants.
9. **Now Hiring in ISSS: 2 Graduate Assistants**

These are 2 positions with different deadlines, job duties and URL links to apply. Each requires a separate application to be considered. Good luck!

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**GRADUATE ASSISTANT NEEDED!**

- Graduate Assistant (GA) must have at least 1 academic year left in program, a 3.0 GPA, and the availability to work over the summer & winter breaks.
- Graduate Assistant must be available 20 hours/week during Spring & Summer semesters, 2017.
- Graduate Assistant will receive a $3000 stipend in Fall and Spring semesters, and $2000 in Summer semester in addition to a full tuition waiver.
- Start date: January, 2017
- Application deadline: November 7, 2016

**To Apply:**

Complete the application form at: [https://goo.gl/forms/1K8aWzZ2e8NpKhv](https://goo.gl/forms/1K8aWzZ2e8NpKhv)

Upon review, the coordinator will contact student for resume/cv if requesting additional information.

*Interviews may be conducted immediately*

**Responsibilities include (but not limited to):**

- Assisting international admissions coordinator with inquiries about admission process, I-20 / DS-2019 process and document preparation.
- Respond to incoming student emails.
- Designing and preparing welcome packets for incoming international students.
- Maintaining international student database and preparing assigned analyses.
- Assisting with international student orientation.
- Performing other related duties as assigned.

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**NOW HIRING:**

**Graduate Assistant**

- Starts: Spring 2017
- Full tuition waiver + $3000 stipend in Spring and Fall Semesters. $2000 in Summer.
- Renewable through graduation
- 3.0 GPA required

**TO APPLY:**

Complete the online application by **Friday, Nov. 11, 5pm.** Copy link to a new browser:

>> [http://tinyurl.com/gu2gg0j](http://tinyurl.com/gu2gg0j) <<

**Duties:**

- Prepare reports, charts, graphs.
- Use Powerpoint, Excel, Word, iStart, other software as assigned (Banner, Google forms, Vengage graphics).
- Ability to proofread and edit documents in English.
- Assist in preparing ISSS Newsletter.
- Assist in preparing annual Open Doors Report and J1 Report.
- Assist in managing listservs and other confidential documents.
- Willingness to co-lead activities and events organized by ISSS.
- Other duties as assigned.
10. Upcoming Holidays

- **U.S. Thanksgiving**: GSU offices will close Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th
- **Winter Break**: GSU will close Friday, Dec. 16th at 5:15pm until Monday, Jan. 2nd, 8:30am
- There will be no access to campus facilities, offices or services during these times.

11. Christmas International House

Christmas International House (CIH) is a 51-year-old nationwide program that provides a chance to be a guest in an American home for 1-2 weeks **Dec. 17, 2016 to January 2, 2017**. For more info or to register, visit [http://www.christmasih.org](http://www.christmasih.org). Registration begins **September 30, 2016** and ends November 15, 2015.

**Please note**: GSU is not affiliated with AMIS or this program. The information is provided only as a service.

12. ISAC Celebrates Diwali – Nov. 4th.

Diwali is India’s biggest and most important holiday of the year. The name comes from rows of clay lamps that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness.

This festival is as important to Hindus as Christmas is to Christians.

The event is open to all!
13. Travel Signature Reminder

Don’t forget to have your form I-20 or DS-2019 signed before you depart the U.S over break if your current travel endorsement is more than 6 months old. For details on this requirement or to request an updated signature, please click >> here.

Tip: Don’t wait till the last minute for this. All requests in iStart take 3-5 days to process.

14. Follow ISSS on Facebook

Current Followers = 2110

Just click the Facebook icon above and like ISSS to get helpful reminders about deadlines, workshops, events and campus jobs right on your smart phone!

For questions about any of the information mentioned above, contact:
International Student & Scholar Services
Georgia State University
252 Sparks Hall
404.413.2070 (phone)
issss.gsu.edu

Thank you so much ISSS Student Assistants and Graduate Assistants!

Feifan Drouyor, GA

Hometown: Beijing, China

Major: Law

What they’ve enjoyed or learned about working here: People in the office are welcoming and friendly.

Future plans: Become an immigration attorney
Huan Wang, GA

**Hometown:** China

**Major:** Teaching and Learning-Language and Literacy

**What I’ve enjoyed and learned about working here:**
I really enjoyed the culture of caring, sharing and appreciation. I have learned to appreciate diverse cultures from staff and other student and graduate assistants.

**Future Plans:** To work in a university as a professor (what I used to do) or as an administrator working with international students/dealing with international issues/affairs.

Ying Huang, GA

**Hometown:** Shanghai, China

**Major:** Master of Science in Analytics

**Enjoy and learn:** This is my first job in the U.S. I enjoyed working with all those amazing people at ISSS. They are patient, kind and never hesitate to help others. I also enjoyed helping international students as well. I used to have a very unique immigration status so I understand what they need and how to help. I learnt a lot about international students policies as well as building data reports. Further, I learnt so much interesting American culture from my colleagues!

**Future plans:** To be a data analyst in the U.S.

Name: Jean-Baptiste Assahi, GA

**Hometown:** Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire

**Major:** Finance

**What they’ve enjoyed or learned about working here:** Meeting amazing people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

**Future plans:** Become an investment professional and help people reach their life goals.
Name: Brian Nguyen, SA

Hometown: Hochiminh City

Major: BBA Managerial Sciences

What they’ve enjoyed or learned about working here: Assisting international students and meeting new exciting people every day. I have learned that everyone is unique in their own way, and you have to study the culture to appreciate the people.

Future plans: Earn my Masters in Supply Chain Management.

Name: Betel Gebre, SA

Hometown: Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia but currently live in Stone Mountain, GA

Major: Sociology; Minor: Nonprofit Leadership

What they’ve enjoyed or learned about working here: Interacting with students from all over the world. I also enjoy watching the them interact with each other and finding their commonalities. Having lived in Ecuador without family or friends and little Spanish, I understand how difficult it is to go to a foreign country and not know anything, so I enjoy helping the students find answers.

Future plans: After graduation, I hope to take a semester off and go back to Ethiopia—or anywhere in Sub-Saharan Africa—to either do an internship or work in promoting public health. After my semester off, I plan on pursuing my MPH and working with infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. My ultimate goal is to work for the United Nations or the World Health Organization.

Mirnary Carbajal, SA

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Major: Computer Science

What I’ve enjoyed/learned about working at the ISSS office: I enjoy meeting and helping all of the international students and exchange visitors that come by the office. Considering that I am not an international student, I have learned a lot during my time here. This opportunity gives me the wonderful chance to learn about the different cultures of many students that I’ve had the pleasure to speak with. Future plans: I’m hoping to study abroad myself in the very near future! After graduating, I plan to continue my education by applying to graduate school.