



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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Fingerprint Registration Required for Library Entry



Over winter break, GSU is installing biometric readers to enter the GSU downtown library. All students must register their fingerprints in the lobby of Library North from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday – Friday. We advise you to take care of this **before leaving on break to avoid long lines in January.**

Important Travel Reminders



Are you departing the U.S. over winter break? It's your responsibility to update your travel signature if needed. It must be less than 6 months old on the date you re-enter the U.S.

To Request an Updated Travel Signature:

- Log into [iStart](#) > "Student Services" tab > "Travel Signature Request", and Submit the e-form.
- You will receive an email once your request has been approved. Then bring your I-20/DS-2019 to the ISSS front desk for a travel signature.

Be Aware

- Allow 3-4 days for processing your request, and plan ahead. Get this done now, if needed.
- You may experience additional wait times during the afternoon. Come in before lunch if possible.
- Last minute requests could result in no travel signature update and then problems at the border at re-entry.

When Re-entering the U.S, be sure to have the following with you:

- Your I-20 or DS-2019 with valid travel signature (no older than 6 months)
- Unexpired passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa
- Copy of your GSU enrollment verification for Spring 2017 (Print from your PAWS account)
- Copies of your financial documentation
- EAD card and employment letter if you are on approved OPT or AT.

Staying in the U.S. over Winter Break?



Would you like to connect with a local family, or do you need a place to stay over Winter Break? Consider this invitation for a unique, cross-cultural, international opportunity that you'll never forget with the AMIS Christmas International House, **Dec. 18, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017**. It's open to everyone, regardless of religion. For all the info, click >> [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 **December 7, 2016 - January 29, 2017**. Coverage begins January 1, 2017 and ends July 31, 2017.

- **Note:** Waivers are not granted automatically, and you must renew your waiver each semester.
- If you'd like to keep your GSU Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), there is nothing you need to do.
- For more info: <http://sfs.gsu.edu/tuition-fees/student-health-insurance/waiving-ship/>

2016 Tax Information: Coming Up in Early 2017



ISSS will provide more info about filing your U.S. Federal and State of Georgia Tax Returns in February 2017. The tax-filing deadline is **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.

Plan Ahead: 2017 Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC)



What: GILC happens each spring. It's a weekend college student conference for international students and study abroad students from across Georgia. Participants share ideas, network and above all, develop their leadership qualities and have fun!

Dates: February 17th – 19th, 2017

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

Cost: *FREE* (funded by ISAC). However, a \$90 deposit is required and refunded upon completion.

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

To Apply: **Details available in January.** Watch the ISSS newsletter and FB page then.

Campus Closing Dates



GSU will be CLOSED: **Friday, December 16th, 5:15pm – Monday, January 2nd, 8:30am**

There will be no access to campus facilities, offices, or services during these times.

ISSS staff will not be able to access email, voice mail or process any e-form requests.

In case of emergency over break, please contact GSU Police at: **404-413-3333**

ISSS Facebook Likes = **2,133**



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 all of us here in ISSS, we sincerely wish you
a safe and happy break,
safe travels, rest, and
a prosperous
2017!*