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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Visit the U.S. Capital – Washington, D.C.

Every year, ISSS sponsors a Spring cultural trip. This year, we’re returning to Washington D.C. and WE’RE FLYING.

Dates: May 1-4, 2018. Departure after Spring semester finals

Cost: $300. Includes 4 days, 3 nights hotel, air-fare, a river cruise, local metro pass, shopping in Georgetown, and access to dozens of free museums and Newseum, one of the city’s most popular!

Here’s the full itinerary.

Sign up before March 9th by emailing the coordinator from your GSU email and include your Panther ID#: ctownsend@gsu.edu
USCIS UPDATE: Credit Cards Now Accepted

On Feb. 14, 2018, USCIS announced it will now accept credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, AMX, Discover) for over 40 fee-based forms, including form I-765 for OPT and form I-539 for Change of Status and Reinstatement applications. To use this option, you will need to submit Form G-1450 (Authorization for Credit Card Transaction) with your application. For more information, please click HERE.

Summer Non-Resident Tuition Waiver Applications Open Soon

- Applications for Summer 2018 open on March 5th and end on April 2nd by 5 pm.
- There are certain restrictions and other eligibility requirements.
- For more information or to apply, please click HERE.

Request Travel Signature for Spring Break International Travel

GSU’s Spring Break is coming up March 12th – 18th. If you plan to travel internationally, DON’T forget to request an updated travel signature via iStart.

You need an updated signature if your last one is more than 6 months old. Processing time is 3-5 business days, so plan ahead.

Please review our travel information page also before booking any international travel. It has been updated with a travel checklist and a “Know Your Rights” at the US Port of Entry link with referrals, should you ever need them.

U.S. Tax Season – In Progress

Spring 2018 is the time to report income and physical presence in the US for tax year 2017 (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017). The U.S. tax agency is called the IRS (Internal Revenue Service). If you initially arrived in the US in 2018, there are no IRS requirements or forms to complete this year. All others have at least one tax form to complete, even if they had no income in 2017.

IRS Deadline to submit tax form(s): April 17th, 2018

By now all international students have received an email from the ISSS office with all the necessary information to use Sprintax, how to obtain the free access code, and what documents are required. For reference, all the information is HERE. Do not wait until the last minute since it can be a lengthy process.
ALERT: Tax Season is also Fraud Season

- ISSS has received reports of unknown individuals pretending to be IRS agents who try to collect tax payments via high pressure calls or emails.
- If you receive such contact, ignore it or ask ISSS first. For more details, please watch this short VIDEO about tax fraud. Spread the word!

CPT/OPT Employment Workshops

ISSS employment workshops are offered to prepare you to apply for F1 Visa benefits: CPT or OPT, and to answer specific questions. All workshops are held in Sparks Hall, Suite 248 (See dates and times to the left) or on our website HERE.

Registration for the workshops is required:
1. Log-in to iStart
2. Click "Session Sign-ups"
3. Sign up for the time and date of your choice.

Fall 2018 V.I.S.A Leaders Needed!

VISA (Volunteer International Student Assistant) Leaders are needed for the Fall 2018 orientation.

- Do you need leadership experience for your résumé? Are you looking for new friends and helping new GSU international students?
- This is a short-term paid, on-campus position, and you don’t need CPT or OPT authorization. VISA Leaders are also provided a 3-day FUN training program.
- Application form is NOW available. Deadline: March 30th.
- To apply or to get more information, click >> HERE << or contact Huan Wang at hwang45@gsu.edu.

2018 International Spring Festival

Every spring, ISAC coordinates the GSU International Spring Festival. It’s a week of events produced by various student groups on campus. International students and their American counterparts seek to promote culture and diversity through a fashion show, dance show, flag parade, international pageant, and tabled events.

When: March 24 – March 31
Georgia International Leadership Conference

**GILC** is an amazing weekend leadership conference for international students and study abroad students from across Georgia. Sign up if you want to increase your leadership skills, make new friends, have fun, and network with international students from other schools within Georgia.

**Conference Dates:** April 13th-15th, 2018

**Registration Deadline:** April 1, 2018

Register >> HERE <<

**Payment deadline:** April 1, 2018

**Cost:** $100 per person. ISAC is fortunate to be able to fully support student costs by refunding the student guarantee upon completion of the program.

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

**Website:** Please visit [http://gilc.weebly.com](http://gilc.weebly.com) for more details.

**Video:** Check out this GILC recap video

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**ISSS Facebook Likes = 2,583 (+11)**

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:

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*On behalf of all of us here in ISSS, we sincerely wish you a safe and happy Spring break, safe travels, rest, and a wonderful Spring 2018!*