



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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### Immigration Updates



Please check your GSU and personal email accounts for an 1/30/2017 email from ISSS containing important information regarding the 1/27/2017 Executive Order (EO) signed by President Trump. ISSS will be closely monitoring immigration-related developments, and updating our [website](#) with helpful links and information related to the EO. We recommend the [first link](#) on that page, which is

a comprehensive overview of the EO and its impact on various groups. If you have any questions or need support, please contact us at [issnpc@gsu.edu](mailto:issnpc@gsu.edu). We are located on Clarkston Campus in CN 1354, 678-891-3235 and on Dunwoody Campus in NB 1200, 770-274-5570. We are here to help!

### ISSS office on Clarkston Campus temporarily relocated

Due to renovations, ISSS on Clarkston Campus has temporarily moved to **CH 1354** on the ground floor of Building H, inside the Military Outreach Center. We will keep you updated about our new office space once renovations are completed.



## International Coffee Hours

**Valentine's Day Around the World | February 14, 2017 | 12 – 1 p.m.**

♥ Clarkston Campus, CN 2220      ♥ Dunwoody Campus, NB 2100/2101

Learn how love is celebrated around the world. Light refreshments will be served. Hosted by the International Peer Assistant (IPA) Program with funding from Student Fees.

### New Walk in Advising Hours at Perimeter College ISSS

In order to align services across all ISSS offices at GSU, the ISSS offices at Perimeter College will now have walk-in advising hours. During Walk in Advising hours\*, you can meet with an international student advisor without an appointment. New walk-in hours go into effect Monday, February 20, 2017.

#### **Walk-in hours at Clarkston (CH 1354) and Dunwoody (NB 1200):**

Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Monday – Friday:            1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

*\*Please note that services will be limited to routine inquiries outside of walk-in hours as international student advisors will not typically be available. Appointments are very limited, and on occasion walk-in hours may adjust due to advisor availability.*

## Upcoming Cultural Festivals



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### *Culture Fest 2017*

**Thursday, April 13, 2017 | Student Center | 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Dunwoody Campus**

Food, music, cultural artifact displays, cultural attire, dance, musical performances, refreshments, and more...

Hosted by the Department of ESL and World Languages and the International Peer Assistant Program, with funding from Student Fees.

### *International Festival*

The Clarkston Campus International Student's Club will host its annual International Festival in early April. This exciting event features international food tasting, music, cultural displays, talent, etc. Stay tuned for more information coming soon....

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## U.S. Tax Season is Here (For Tax Year 2016)



Spring is tax season in the U.S. based on tax year 2016 (January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016.) The U.S. tax agency is called the IRS (Internal Revenue Service). If you initially arrived in the US in 2017, there are no IRS requirements for you this year. All others have at least 1 tax form to complete.

**IRS Deadline to submit tax form(s):** April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

ISSS offers **FREE** tax preparation software called Sprintax. It is a safe, secure, online software designed specifically for international students and scholars. ISSS advises you to **ONLY** use Sprintax. *We will send out the information and code in mid-February.* Please start by reviewing the ISSS Tax Information page on our website [HERE](#)

ISSS will offer walk-in tax assistance at PC as follows:

**Clarkston:** March 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CE 1100

**Dunwoody:** March 31, 2017, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., NA 1160

## 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 calls or emails. **THIS IS A SCAM!**
- If you receive such contact, ignore it or ask ISSS first.
- Please watch this short [Video](#) about tax fraud and let your friends know.

## F-1 students Employment & Transfer Information Workshop

This workshop provides an overview of on-campus employment, employment based on economic hardship, with special emphasis on post-graduation Optional Practical Training for students in F-1 status. Transfer deadlines and procedures for F-1 students will also be covered.

OPT applicants should attend the workshop in the semester you plan to graduate. There is no cost.

For information about OPT and on-campus employment, click [HERE](#). Please note that PC students are not eligible for CPT or STEM OPT.

Date	Time	Location	Campus
Wednesday, February 22, 2017	12:00 p.m.	JCLRC 4190 (Library)	Clarkston
Thursday, February 23, 2017	12:00 p.m.	NB 2102	Dunwoody

## Important Spring Break Travel Reminders



Are you departing the U.S. over spring 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 to the ISSS-PC front desk at Dunwoody or Clarkston campus for a travel signature.

### Be Aware

- Allow 3-4 days for processing your request, and plan ahead. Get this done now, if needed.
- 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 with valid travel signature (no older than 6 months)
- Unexpired passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
- Valid F-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

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

### International Student & Scholar Services

Georgia State University Perimeter College

Clarkston Campus: 678-891-3235

Dunwoody Campus: 770-274-5570

[isspc@gsu.edu](mailto:isspc@gsu.edu) (email)

[iss.gsu.edu](http://iss.gsu.edu) (website)