



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.

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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 score board 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.

We hope to see you there!

2. F-1 Visa Student Enrollment Requirements

F-1 visa students are required to maintain full-time status by enrolling in a minimum of 12 credit hours fall and spring semesters and may not count more than 3 hours of on-line credits toward full-time enrollment. Please keep this mind as you register for spring semester. For a detailed reminder about these rules, click [here](#).

3. 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:

- **I-765** (Employment Authorization).
Increasing from **\$380** to **\$410**
- **I-539** (Change of Status).
Increasing from **\$290** to **\$370**.

4. Optional Practical Training (OPT)



Graduating F-1 students can request Optional Practical Training (OPT Work Authorization) by logging into IStart and selecting/completing the eForms located under the F-1 Practical Training link. Remember, you can only apply for Optional Practical Training if you are currently registered for your last semester at PC and have applied to graduate from the college or you have graduated within the last 60 days. Applying for work authorization is a time sensitive matter, so for questions, please see your international student advisor. If you have any questions or need any assistance with the new services from IStart, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at isspc@gsu.edu or call 678-891-3235.

5. New services available through iStart

There are several new services available to F-1 students via iStart. Click [here](#) to learn about iStart and how to use it. After logging on to iStart, under the F-1 Student Services menu, you can:

- Add a dependent
- Complete a Departure Form (used for temporary and permanent exit from the US)
- Request a duplicate I20 or an updated I20 form
- Request letters for the Social Security Office or Department of Driver Services
- Complete a Transfer Out Form
- Request a Travel Signature

6. International Education Week (IEW)

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.

During International Education Week, the International Peer Assistant (IPA) Program will host “Holidays Around the World” to explore special cultural celebrations from around the world. Participants will enjoy a taste of a traditional US Thanksgiving meal. This event is sponsored by Student Fees. For information, contact isspc@gsu.edu.

- MONDAY, NOV. 14 • 12 – 1 PM - Newton Campus: Building 2N, Room 2260
- TUESDAY, NOV. 15 • 12 – 1 PM - Dunwoody Campus: Building B, Room 2100/2101
- WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16 • 12 – 1 PM - Clarkston Campus: Building N, Room 2240
- THURSDAY, NOV. 17 • 12 – 1 PM - Decatur Campus: Building SF, Room 2100
- THURSDAY, NOV. 17 • 12 – 1 PM - Alpharetta Campus: Building A, Room 1140

7. 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.

8. Update US Address & Phone Number

All students holding F-1 immigration status are required by federal law to have a valid US address, phone number, and email on file at all times. Please make sure to login to PAWS and ensure your contact information is correct. To update any information on file, follow the steps below:

- Please logon with your campus ID to <http://paws.gsu.edu>.
- Select 'Enrolment' in the menu
- Select 'Change Address(es) and Phone Number(s) (under Updates/Request)
- Select 'Local Address' for Type of Address to Insert
- Save your address as you entered in the form

PLEASE NOTE: Your Permanent Address is always your Home Country Address.

You are required by law to report your address changes within 10 days to the ISSS PC office. Updating your information via PAWS, will ensure you are not in violation.

9. Graduating and/or transferring at the end of Fall semester 2016?

If you are graduating and planning to leave the US and/or to transfer to another school, please be reminded that you have a 60-day grace period to either leave the US or complete your I-20 transfer out to your next institution. For more information, specifically about transferring, please click [here](#).

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



Atlanta Ministry with International Students, Inc.

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>. 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. Your GSU Panther I-20 Coming Soon!

Now that Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia State University are fully consolidated, Perimeter College F-1 students will receive a new I-20 listing Georgia State University as your institution.

November 21 and 22 are **Panther I-20 Pick-Up Days**. Please log-in to iStart using the steps provided below to confirm which campus you will visit to get your new I-20. If you need information about how to access iStart, please click [here](#).

- Login to Istart: istart.gsu.edu
- Select F-1 Student Services from the Main Menu on the left
- Select Eform: Georgia State Perimeter College Consolidated I20 Update Request
- Complete the eForm and Submit

13. Travel Signature Reminder



Don't forget to have your form I-20 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.

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

International Student & Scholar Services

Georgia State University, Perimeter College

issspc@gsu.edu

Tel: 678-891-3235 (Clarkston)

Tel: 770-274-5570 (Dunwoody)