



*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. 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 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

## 2. Deadline: Spring 2017 Health Insurance Waiver & Enrollment



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**. Spring/Summer coverage begins January 1, 2017 and ends July 31, 2017.

- **Note:** Insurance Waivers are not granted automatically, and you must apply for a new insurance waiver each semester.
- For more info: <http://sfs.gsu.edu/tuition-fees/student-health-insurance/waiving-ship/>
- Perimeter College students may purchase [PGH Global Insurance](#) to waive the GSU Insurance.
- PGH Global meets minimum insurance coverage requirements, and you should answer the insurance waiver questions about PGH Global insurance coverage accordingly.
- Step by Step instructions to complete the SHIP waiver form: [Quick Reference Guide](#)
- If you'd like to keep your GSU Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), there is nothing you need to do.

## 3. Request your new GSU Panther I-20!

All Perimeter College F-1 students are required to have a new Georgia State University I-20. Students who have requested and picked up their new GSU I-20 may disregard this notice.

If you have not yet requested your new GSU I-20, 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](http://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.

If you had already requested your new GSU I-20 and have not picked it up, please do so by Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 4. 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](#)

## 5. Fingerprint Registration Required for Library Entry - Atlanta Campus Only



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.

## 6. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## 7. Campus Closing Dates



GSU will be CLOSED: **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:15pm – Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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**

## 8. Special Thanks.

ISSS-PC extends a special thanks to the Perimeter College International Peer Assistant (IPA) team for your volunteer service in fall 2016. We appreciate all that you do!

☆ Anna Ali

☆ Ousmane Diouf

☆ Le Hoa

☆ Mounika Kandagadda

☆ Bahija Oueslati

☆ Quang Tien Thai

☆ Hoa Pham Thanh

☆ Thanh Tran

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

**International Student & Scholar Services**

Georgia State University, Perimeter College

[issipc@gsu.edu](mailto:issipc@gsu.edu)

Tel: 678-891-3235 (Clarkston)

Tel: 770-274-5570 (Dunwoody)

On behalf of all of us in ISSS -PC, we sincerely wish you a safe and happy break, safe travels, and a prosperous 2017!