

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.

## Table of Contents

U.S. Tax Season is Here (For Tax Year 2017).....	1
ALERT: Tax Season is also Fraud Season.....	1
International Coffee Hour: Valentine’s Day around the World .....	2
Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshops.....	2
Visit the U.S. Capital – Washington, DC.....	2
Seeking International Peer Assistants for 2018-2019.....	3
Upcoming Cultural Festivals .....	3
Flu Season.....	4
Important Spring Break Travel Reminders.....	4

## U.S. Tax Season is Here (For Tax Year 2017)



Spring is tax season in the U.S. based on tax year 2017 (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017). If you initially arrived in the US in 2018, 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 17, 2018**

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. Please start by reviewing the ISSS Tax Information page on our website >> [HERE](#) <<

### Sprintax Assistance:

ISSS at Perimeter College will offer walk-in assistance for students needing help navigating Sprintax only:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Clarkston:</b> | March 23, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Location TBA |
| <b>Dunwoody:</b>  | April 6, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 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. For more details, please watch this short [VIDEO](#) about tax fraud and let your friends know.



## Valentine's Day around the World

♥ Tuesday, February 14, 2018

**Clarkston Campus**

CN 2220  
12 – 1 p.m.

♥ Tuesday, February 14, 2018

**Dunwoody Campus**

NB 2100/2101  
12 – 1 p.m.

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.

### Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshops

Are you graduating this semester and thinking about applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT) to work for one year to gain experience in your field of study? Before you can apply for OPT you will need to complete an OPT workshop on-line or on-campus (listed below). On-campus workshops will also include a short overview of on-campus employment, employment based on economic hardship, and transfer out at the beginning. Please note that PC students are not eligible for CPT or STEM OPT.

Date	Time	Location	Campus
Tuesday, February 20, 2018	12:00 P.M.	NB 2102	Dunwoody Campus
Wednesday, February 21, 2018	12:00 P.M.	CN 2240	Clarkston Campus
Tuesday, March 20, 2018	12:00 P.M.	CN 2240	Clarkston Campus
Wednesday, March 21, 2018	12:00 P.M.	NB 2102	Dunwoody Campus

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

ISSS will sponsor an exciting, low-cost day trip to Washington, D.C this Spring. Participants will visit all the major sites of the U.S. Capital and have plenty of free time.



**Dates:** May 1-4, 2018. Departure after Spring semester finals and return in time for Maymester classes.

**Estimated Cost:** \$325. Includes round-trip flight and 3 nights shared hotel rooms. All the details are >> [HERE](#).

## International Peer Assistant (IPA) Program is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 program



Would you like to make new friends while welcoming new international students to Perimeter College? Would you like to help plan International Coffee Hours and other cultural events to provide opportunities for culture sharing at Perimeter College? If this sounds like you and you would like to join the IPA team, please email us at [isspc@gsu.edu](mailto:isspc@gsu.edu) to request an application.

Applications due: **Friday, March 30, 2018 at 5 p.m.**

This is a volunteer position, but the rewards include gaining experience you can put on your resume, meeting new people, practicing valuable leadership skills, and more...

## Upcoming Cultural Festivals



---

### *Culture Fest 2018*

Spring 2018 | Student Center | 11:30 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*

April 3, 2018 | Student Center | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Clarkston Campus |

International Student's Club will host its annual exciting International featuring international food tasting, music, cultural displays, talent, etc. Stay tuned for more information coming soon....

---

## Flu Season



The flu season has been very severe this year. For tips to help protect yourself this season, please click << [HERE](#) >> for important information from the Dean of Students office at GSU.

## Important Spring Break Travel Reminders



Are you departing the U.S. over spring break in March? 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 2018 (Print from your PAWS account)
- Copies of your financial documentation
- EAD card and employment letter if you are on approved OPT



Please follow us on Facebook to get updates regarding ISSS events, policies, and other important information. Like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/PerimeterCollegeISSS/>.

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

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

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