

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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## Important Travel Reminders



Are you departing the U.S. over winter break? It is 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

## Deadline: Spring 2019 Health Insurance Enrollment & Waiver



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 2019, the waiver request period is open **December 5, 2018 - January 22, 2019**. Spring/Summer coverage begins January 1, 2019 and ends July 31, 2019.

- **Note:** Insurance Waivers are not granted automatically, and you must renew your waiver each semester.
- For more information about waiving SHIP, please click [HERE](#).
- Perimeter College students may purchase [PGH Global Health Insurance](#) to waive SHIP
- 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 available [HERE](#)
- If you will keep your GSU Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), you must activate your SHIP coverage by the January 16, 2019 deadline. For sample enrollment instructions, click [HERE](#).

## REMINDER: Enrollment Requirements for F1/J1 students



- Undergraduate Students: 12 hours in Fall and Spring
- All Students: Only 1 online course (3 credit hours) per semester count toward full-time enrollment.
- Enrollment details, click >> [HERE](#)

## 2018 Tax Information: Coming Up in Early 2019



ISSS will provide more info about filing your U.S. Federal and State of Georgia Tax Returns in February 2019. The tax-filing deadline is **April 15, 2019**. What you need to know now is:

- **DO NOT 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.

## READ CAREFULLY: SOCIAL SECURITY SCAMS

You should never share your social security number or personal information over the phone or in person unless you are certain the information is being requested for a legitimate purpose.

If someone asks for your social security number or personal information, stay calm and do not give them any details. Here are some steps that you should take if someone asks for this information:

1. Stay calm and ask the person why they need this information. Take notes about what the person is saying and requesting from you.
2. Ask for the person's contact information. Document the individual's full name, if they are from a government agency, and any other information that could be used to describe this individual. If someone calls you requesting this information, ask for a direct number (including an extension) so you can call them back. If a person refuses to give you this information, the call is probably a scam.
3. Immediately contact the International Student & Scholar Services office with the information that you have recorded. Someone from the ISSS office will help you find out the reason for the call or visit and determine if it is valid. If the visit or call is a scam, we will report the incident to the police. Don't worry! The ISSS office is here to assist with you with this process.



Don't give out any personal, immigration, or banking information to anyone that you don't trust.

## Special Thanks to IPA Team



ISSS-PC extends thanks to the Perimeter College International Peer Assistant (IPA) team for your volunteer service in fall 2018. We appreciate your assistance and leadership with our programs this semester. We also want to extend a special thanks to **Trinh Van** and **Arlet Castillo** for their very valuable contributions to the IPA program. Best wishes to both as they transition to the Atlanta Campus in spring 2019.

### Clarkston Campus

Aysha Hussen  
Quang Luu  
Trinh Van\*

### Dunwoody Campus

Nguyen Ahn  
Arlet Castillo\*  
Eunice Mulenda

## Campus Closing Dates



GSU will be closed from Friday, **December 21, 5:15pm – Monday, January 7, 8:30 am.**

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**



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

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)



***On behalf of all of us at ISSS Perimeter College, we sincerely wish you a happy winter break, safe travels, and a prosperous 2019!***