DEADLINE: SPRING 2019 HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER REQUEST

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. Coverage begins January 1, 2019 and ends July 31, 2019.

- **Note:** Waivers are not granted automatically, and you must renew your waiver each semester.
- If you’d like to keep your GSU Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), there is nothing you need to do.
- For more information, please click [HERE](#).
IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT REMINDER

- Graduate Students: 9 hours in Fall and Spring
- Undergraduate Students: 12 hours in Fall and Spring
- All Students: limited to 1 online course per semester.
- Enrollment details, click >> HERE.

CAMPUS CLOSING DATES

GSU will be CLOSED from Monday, December 24th until Friday, January 4th at.
There will be no access to campus facilities, offices, or services during these
times, including postal mail. ISSS staff will not have access to email, voice mail or
process any e-form requests. In case of emergency over the break, please
contact GSU Police at: 404-413-3333.

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/DS-2019 to the
  ISSS front desk for a travel signature.

Be Aware!

- Allow 3-4 days for processing your request, and plan ahead. Get this done now, if needed.
- You may experience additional wait times during the afternoon. Come in before lunch if possible.
- 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 or DS-2019 with valid travel signature (no older than 6 months)
- Unexpired passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa and copies of your financial documentation
- Copy of your GSU enrollment verification for Spring 2019 (Print from your PAWS account)
- EAD card and employment letter if you are on approved OPT or AT.
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. Takes 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.

2018 TAX YEAR INFORMATION: COMING UP 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 15th, 2019. What you need to know:

• 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.

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 7-10, 2019. Departure after Spring semester finals and return in time for Maymester classes.

Estimated Cost: $325. Includes round-trip flight and 3 nights shared hostel rooms.

To Apply: Details will be available in January! Stay connected!
STAYING IN THE U.S. DURING 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, 2018 – Jan. 2, 2019. It’s open to everyone, regardless of religion. For all the info, click >> HERE.

PLAN AHEAD: 2019 GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

- **What:** GILC happens each spring. It’s a weekend college student conference for international students and study abroad students from across Georgia. Participants share ideas, network and above all, develop their leadership qualities and have fun!
- **Dates and Location:** February 22-24, 2019
- **Location:** Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center (Covington, GA)
- **Cost:** **FREE** (funded by ISAC). However, a $90 deposit is required and refunded upon completion.
- **Website:** For more details, please click HERE.
- **To Apply:** Details will be available in January. Stay connected!
ISSS FACEBOOK LIKES = 2,829

Just click the Facebook icon to the left to get helpful reminders about deadlines, workshops, events and campus jobs right on our Facebook page.

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

International Student & Scholar Services
Georgia State University
252 Sparks Hall
404.413.2070 (phone)
iss.s.usa.edu

On behalf of all of us here in ISSS, we sincerely wish you
a safe and happy break,
safe travels, rest, and
a prosperous
2019!