OPT Workshops:
Students who are graduating in December 2016 or anytime in 2017 should plan to attend an OPT workshop to learn more about their options for employment authorization after they graduate. All students (graduate and undergraduate) must attend an OPT workshop prior to applying for OPT.

Friday, December 2 at 1:00 PM – Grace Conference Room
Monday, January 30 at 6:00 PM – Location TBD
Wednesday, February 15 at 12:00 PM – Location TBD
Thursday, March 2 at 3:00 PM – Location TBD
Tuesday, April 11 at 1:30 PM – Location TBD

Special Topics Workshops:
Wednesday, January 25 at 2:30 PM – H-1B and Employment-based visas, given by Iandoli and Desai; Jefferson 320
Wednesday, February 22 at 2:30 PM – Income Taxes, facilitated by Colleen Callahan-Panday from WPI’s International Office; Location TBD
Wednesday, March 29 at 2:30 PM – Avoiding Scams and Fraud; Location TBD
Wednesday, April 26 at 2:30 PM – STEM OPT; Location TBD

Please be aware: The US government is increasing application fees for most applications on December 23, 2016. The fee for the OPT application will increase from $380 to $410 on this date. If you are graduating in December and plan to apply for OPT, please take this into consideration and apply before the fee increase!
Update on New President and Administration in the USA:
Our second meeting about the changes in political power in the US will occur on Wednesday, December 7th from 3PM to 4PM in the Higgins Lounge on the second floor of Dana Commons. We will offer the latest information that we have on potential changes and we welcome your questions and comments. Professor Mark Miller from Clark’s Political Science Department will be on hand to give us expert information about the US government system.

Winter Wear:
It’s cold in Worcester during this time of year, so make sure to dress accordingly. Layers are best! For example, you might want to have a cotton T-shirt, and a sweater or sweatshirt, jeans, and thick socks that cover your ankles. At the very least you should always you should make sure that you have a hat, a scarf, 1-3 pair of gloves (if you lose one glove you want to have a spare pair,) a winter jacket, and waterproof or water resistant boots. For more winter resources, please see this website.

Spring Registration!
Spring registration is right around the corner! As you are building your Spring schedule, please keep in mind that all international students must be registered for at least 3 units each semester to maintain immigration status. Only 1 of those 3 units can be taken in an online format. If you are graduating in May and only need 1 unit to graduate, that unit CANNOT be taken online. Questions about this? Ask ISSO!

Free Therapy Services
Clark University’s Clinical Psychology doctoral program offers free, individual therapy, with no session limits, to Clark students. For students’ convenience, the services are on-campus. Dr. Kathleen Palm Reed has been running this clinic since she arrived at Clark University in 2007. Interested students can contact 508-793-7269, or Dr. Palm Reed’s office number x7277.

The Blog is back!
This year, we've renovated our blog The Things That Matter, both in aesthetics and content. We'll still be sharing international student insights on what’s happening around Clark and the globe, but we'll also be sharing more information on the logistics of being international. How do you get a job in the US? What are some Clark-provided resources
that are helpful yet remain unused? Visit our new page and subscribe to our mailing list for posts delivered to your inbox every week!

PS. If you're more on social media than your inbox, follow our Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook page for updates!

**Dining Group**

Interested in food options on campus? Please consider joining the International Dining Group. We meet with Michael Newmark about once per month to give feedback about the dining experience. If you are interested, please contact pdoherty@clarku.edu.

**SCAMS**

Scammers are targeting International students and scholars around the country to try to get money from them. Common scammers will call and claim to be from a US government agency. The scammer will attempt to convince the student to send money to solve a problem with the student’s immigration status, taxes, etc. Please remember that the government will NEVER demand money over the phone.

We are also seeing an increase in employment-related scams. These often involve hiring a student in a type of remote position, giving the student given a sum of money to help with start-up costs and asking the student to forward the remaining money to another person. Scams always involve the scammer trying to get a student to give them money.

As a general rule, never send money to or accept money from someone that you do not know! Never give out personal information (name, date of birth, Social Security number, etc.) to someone that you do not know over the phone or via e-mail.

Scammers often sound very legitimate, use technical language, and threaten legal action when the student does not do exactly what they want.

We encourage you to report scams, as this is a good way to help stop scams from happening. If you are concerned that you are being scammed, contact ISSO and the Clark University Police to report the scam. You can also report immigration-related scams to the USCIS online: https://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams/report-immigration-scams.

**Travelers – take note**
You may have heard about the Zika virus in the news lately. For those of you who plan to travel, please take a look at this link to find out where cases of the Zika disease has been found: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/ Although most cases of the Zika virus are mild, here is some information about preventative measures you can take to avoid contraction: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/disease-qa.html

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Stay warm and good luck with finals!