ISSO NEWS February 2017

US President’s Executive Orders and Policies that Impact Student Visa Holders
Look for new information that will be added to the ISSO website by February 11th. You can access it [http://www2.clarku.edu/offices/oia/](http://www2.clarku.edu/offices/oia/) We will update you on information and include valuable resources for you as soon as available.

OPT Workshops:
All students, both graduate and undergraduate, who are planning to graduate anytime in 2017 must attend an OPT workshop prior to applying for OPT.

*Wednesday, February 15 at 12:00 PM – Lurie Conference Room, Higgins University Center*
*Thursday, March 2 at 3:00 PM – Grace Conference Room, Higgins University Center*
*Tuesday, April 11 at 1:30 PM – Grace Conference Room, Higgins University Center*

Special Topics Workshops:
Wednesday, February 22 at 2:30 PM – Income Taxes, facilitated by Colleen Callahan-Panday from WPI’s International Office; Grace Conference Room in the UC
*Wednesday, March 29 at 2:30 PM – Avoiding Scams and Fraud; Grace Conference Room in the UC*
*Wednesday, April 26 at 2:30 PM – STEM OPT; Jefferson 218*

Tax Season!
This is tax season. The ISSO offers the Windstar program, a federal and state tax preparation system. It only costs $10 to purchase an access code. Please stop by the
ISSO to purchase a Windstar access code. Then, please come hear Colleen’s talk on Wednesday, February 22 at 2:30pm in Grace Conference room about Income Taxes!

5th Annual TCK/Global Nomads Conference!
Registration remains open for Clark’s 5th Annual TCK/Global Nomads Conference. Our theme this year is “Navigating the World with Evolving Identities”. The conference will take place on Saturday, February 25, 2017. You can register at https://tckconference2017.eventbrite.com. The registration deadline is February 10. For more information, please visit this site.

Donut Day!
Donut Day will be Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in Grace Conference Room from 9am – 2pm. Please stop by! Get your I-20 signed with a travel signature while enjoying free donuts and coffee!

“Green Stories from Home”
This event is happening on February 7th at 8PM at the Physical Plant Building (Gates House), 24 Charlotte Street. Please join us to share or listen to green stories from home.

Update on New President and Administration in the USA
The March meeting about the changes in political power in the US will occur on Wednesday, March 1st from 3PM to 4PM in the Fireside 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.

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, a sweater or sweatshirt, jeans, and thick socks that cover your ankles. At the very least you should always 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.

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](https://example.com), [Twitter](https://example.com), or [Facebook page](https://example.com) for updates!

**SCAMS**

In fact, the Special Topic Workshop for Wednesday, March 29th is a talk on Avoiding Scams and Fraud in Grace Conference Room in the UC. Mark your calendars now!

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 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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ISSO
Clark University | Corner House
iss@clarku.edu | 508-793-7362
http://www.clark.edu/offices/oia/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ClarkOIA

Stay warm!