OPT Workshop Dates for Graduate Students

If you are a grad student and if you will be graduating in 2016 you should attend one of our workshops about Optional Practical Training (OPT). This is an immigration benefit that you can apply for that will allow you to gain work experience after graduation. You must attend an OPT workshop prior to applying for OPT. Pre-registration is not necessary.

OPT Workshops for the Spring semester will take place as follows:

Tuesday, February 16—4:30 PM until 6:00 PM
Grace Conference Room in the University Center

Monday, March 21—12:00 PM until 1:30 PM
Grace Conference Room in the University Center

Wednesday, April 6—3:00 PM until 4:30 PM
Jonas Clark, room 218

Graduating in May or August and cannot attend? Contact our office to schedule a time to meet with our staff about OPT. Students who cannot attend an OPT workshop can attend Open Hours with Amanda Connolly to learn about OPT. Open Hours are Tuesdays from 1:30—3:00 PM in Corner House and Thursdays from 11 AM—12:30 PM in Carlson Hall.

Third Culture Kids Conference
The TCK Conference will be held on Saturday, February 27th, 2016. For more information: [http://www.clarku.edu/offices/oia/tck/conference.cfm](http://www.clarku.edu/offices/oia/tck/conference.cfm)
Taxes!
All students who worked in the US in 2015 should file their taxes by April 15, 2016. Please refer to ISSO e-mail dated February 1, 2016 or this link, http://www.clarku.edu/offices/oia/international/taxes.cfm for more details.

Spring Break Travel
If you are traveling outside of the US on Spring Break, make sure that you have an I-20 that was signed by an ISSO Staff member no earlier than August 25, 2015.

Dining Services over Spring Break
The Bistro in Higgins University Center will be open during Spring Break for breakfast and lunch. Check here for more information: https://clarkdining.sodexomyway.com/

Travelers – take note
You may have heard about the Zika virus in the news lately. For those of you who plan to travel during spring break, 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

Bloggers needed!
The student writer, which is a paid position, will join a team of Clark students who contribute to the blog, The Things That Matter (https://clarkuthingsthatmatter.wordpress.com/) on a regular basis. The blog is based out of Clark University’s International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO), whose job is to advise international students, faculty members, scholars and their dependents from over 95 countries on all matters concerning daily life in the United States. What the student writers do is a little simpler – as a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate-level students, we write about things that matter to us. Whether it be the latest international conflict or something we experience on campus; our aim is to provoke conversation, share our thoughts and get people to start talking about the things that matter to them. We represent a small portion of the Clark community and aim to showcase an example of individuality that exists within the student body and
the breadth of what matters to our community.

We are looking for:

- Strong interest in international/ intercultural matters (Current events, campus events, etc.)
- Strong writing skills, including flexibility to accommodate the blog audience
- Willingness to share your own unique perspective and stories
- Ability to work independently and communicate effectively with the blog student-coordinator as well as with the team of writers
- Experience in blog-writing preferred
- We are hoping to add younger voices (first years and sophomores) and graduate student voices to the writing staff, but this should not discourage interested juniors or seniors from inquiring.

Please contact Amanda Connolly (aconnolly@clarku.edu), ISSO Associate Director, with questions or for an application.

Donut Day!
Donut Day will be held on April 26, 2016 in the Grace Conference Room in the Higgins University Center. All those who will travel outside of the US after May, 2016 should get a new I-20 signature in preparation for entry to the US. More details to come!

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