OPT Workshops:
Students who have graduated in December 2016 or who are planning to graduate 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.

Monday, January 30 at 6:00 PM – Grace Conference Room, Higgins University Center
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, 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; 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

Chinese New Year – The Year of the Rooster
Chinese New Year Celebrations begin on January 28th and end on February 15th. There will be a special themed lunch on Friday, January 27th in the Dining Hall, Higgins University Center.
“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.

Please contact Mary T Yohannes (myohannes@clarku.edu), second-year international student and intern at Sustainable Clark, by Wednesday, January 25th if you would like to attend.

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!

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, February 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. 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.

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!

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 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](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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