ISSO NEWS  November 2016

Donut Day!
Donut Day will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016 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!

OPT Workshops Scheduled for Grads and Undergrads!
Students who are graduating in December 2016 or May 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. Also, there will be more workshops in the spring semester.

Monday, November 14 at 12:30 PM – Lurie Conference Room
Friday, December 2 at 1:00 PM – Grace Conference Room

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!

Special Topic Workshops:
Wednesday, November 30 – 2:30 PM
Special Topics – STEM OPT workshop, Grace Conference Room

Wednesday, January 25, 2:00 PM
Special Topics – H1-B and Working Visas given by Iandoli and Desai, Jefferson 320
Scholarship Opportunity!

SCIENCE AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP: A full-ride tuition scholarship for a woman seeking an undergraduate degree in science, engineering, technology, or math. Visit [this website](#) to apply.

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 your 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.

Time change!

Remember that the time will change on Sunday, November 6. We will “fall back”. Time officially changes at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 6. Set your clocks back one hour at this time or before you go to bed. You’ll get an extra hour of sleep and we will have more light in the morning!

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 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).

**Thank you very much!**

We would just like to take a moment to thank you all. You have all been extremely responsive making our jobs much easier. We appreciate it!

**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/](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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Clark University | Corner House
 isso@clarku.edu | 508-793-7362
http://www.clarku.edu/offices/oia/
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Happy Thanksgiving!