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Immigration News and Events

Apply for OPT Today! It's Not Too Early

If you are an F-1 student who will complete all your coursework/degree this December and you plan on applying for OPT, you should start the process now. Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a form of work authorization that allows F-1 students to work in the US in their field of study for 12 months.

You can apply for OPT as early as 90 days before your program end date. OPT work authorization is approved by USCIS and your application may take 2-3 months to process.

When applying, you can choose any day within 60 days of your program end date as your OPT start date. Applying early has no effect on the start date you can choose, but does help to ensure you get the full 12 months of work authorization.

For more information on the OPT application process, please visit the [OPT section](#) of the SCIS website.



Government Shutdown Should Not Affect USCIS or SEVP Operations

The recent government shutdown should not affect USCIS applications filed by F-1, J-1, or H-1B students and scholars/employees. OPT applications, H-1B petitions, change of status applications, etc. are all funded by the fees included in the application process. Therefore, these activities are expected to continue and not be affected by the shutdown.

In addition, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program's

(SEVP's) offices will remain open. This continuation of operations is possible because SEVP is a fee-funded program and does not receive any government-appropriated funds. During this time, designated school officials and F-1 students must continue to meet all regulatory requirements.

E-Verify is an exception and is unavailable during the shutdown. For more information about how the shutdown is effecting E-Verify please visit www.dhs.gov/e-verify.

In addition, Social Security card centers are closed, including the Social Security Administration Office in Syracuse, NY as a result of the shutdown. New or replacement cards cannot be issued at this time. For more information, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/shutdown/>.



Slutzker Center News and Events

Connections Program Apple-Picking at Abbott's Farm

Last Sunday, participants in the Slutzker Center Connections Program took a trip to [Abbott's Farm](#) in nearby Baldwinsville, NY. Mentors and mentees enjoyed the weather while picking/eating apples! The trip was full of happy faces, pictures, and tons of apples!

"It was fun to spend some time off campus during the semester, especially by attending an event with many international students like me! I stuffed a full bag of Gala apples and shared them with my new friends." - Jiashi Sun (mentee)

The [Connections Program](#) is a mentoring program offered by the Slutzker Center for all new first year and transfer international students. New students are connected with a mentor and a group of other first year international students. Mentors can help to give their mentees advice on topics such as settling into Syracuse, living with a roommate, meeting new friends, getting along with teachers, and how to handle academic work. The program also involves fun monthly programming, like this trip to the apple orchard.



Recognition Party for Peer Mentors and Assistants

The Slutzker Center for International Services honored our peer mentors and volunteer peer assistants at a gathering last Friday, September 27th. In addition to the party, our volunteer peer assistants received a certificate of appreciation for welcoming and assisting new international students during



check-in and for their help at the Summer/Fall International Student Orientations.

We Want to Hear From You

The Slutzker Center for International Services would love to hear your feedback about the SCIS News. We are here to serve the international student population at SU, so let us know your opinion.

- What information/stories would you like to see in the SCIS News?
- How could we improve the newsletter?
- How often would you like to receive information from SCIS?

If you would like to share your opinion, please write to us at lescis@syr.edu. We are always looking for ways to improve.



Picture of the Week

This picture was taken by Bin Lin from Lover's Bridge in Taipei, Taiwan. Bin is an SU graduate student studying in the Entrepreneurship program. He took the photograph this summer while touring Taiwan. Bin believes "it's wonderful to enrich our lives by experiencing life in a different part of the world." That is one of the reasons he came to Syracuse University.



For the chance to have your picture featured as Picture of the Week, please send it via email to lescis@syr.edu with the subject line of "Picture of the Week." Submissions can be from anywhere on the globe!

Syracuse University Events

Has the "Arab Spring" Failed to Bring Democracy and Women's Rights?

**341 Eggers
October 4, 12:30pm**

Middle Eastern Studies Program Presents: "Has the "Arab Spring" Failed to Bring Democracy and Women's Rights?" by Larbi Touaf.

This discussion will address the current political situation in the Arab world, three years after the start of the uprisings. In particular, Professor Touaf will be focusing on the major concerns of women's rights and democracy advocates. Concerns include the alarming emergence of fundamentalist governments whose discourse on women and civil liberties appears to be regressive.

Larbi Touaf is an Associate Professor of English and former Chair of the English department at Mohammed I University Oujda, Morocco. Dr. Touaf was fellow at the Maxwell School in 2011 and is now a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at SUNY Cortland.



**Kitty Lun
Populist Creativity - the China Way
I-3 Center, 432 Newhouse 3
October 9, 6:30pm**

Guest speaker, Kitty Lun, is one of the world's most awarded and respected advertising professionals. She has been named one of the top 10 Creative Directors of the Year and one of the top 10 Distinguished Advertising Women of the Year.

Born in Hong Kong, Lun majored in communication at Hong Kong's Baptist University before earning a master's in advertising at the Newhouse School. She now serves as chairman and CEO of LOWE/China.

This event is part of the Newhouse School's Eric Mower Advertising Forum. The event is free and open to the public. You can follow on Twitter at #MowerForum. For more information, visit the [Newhouse Events & Speakers](#) webpage.



Cultural and Community Events

From Symphoria with Love: Music of James Bond Crouse Hinds Concert Theater October 4, 7:30pm

Broadway star Karen Mason joins Principal Pops Conductor Sean O'Loughlin for this tribute to the music of James Bond. Ms. Mason has won 10 MAC awards, and notably starred as Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*. Her other Broadway credits include *Mamma Mia*, *Rebecca*, *Hairspray*, *Wonderland*, and *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*.

Ticket prices range from \$29 - \$79. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit the [Symphoria website](#).



Great Syracuse Oktoberfest October 6, 12-7pm

Hosted by the German American Society of Central New York and sponsored by PriceChopper, this year's festival will take place at a new location – Long Branch Park in Liverpool. Oktoberfest features the best of German food, entertainment, and old world gemütlichkeit!

For more information, please visit the [official website](#). Admission is \$3 per person.



Wednesday Recital Series Featuring Russian Folk Dances October 9, 12:30-1:30

Founded in 1890, Civic Morning Musicals serves the community by providing non-commercial music in live performance to Central New York audiences. Their [Wednesday Recital Series](#) hosts up to 30 concerts per year, free and open to the public, at the Everson Museum, Hosmer Auditorium.



Next week's concert features Tom McKay, clarinet, Beth Scott, flute, Kathryn Dimmel, oboe, Margie Hawthorne, horn and Jill Bushnell, bassoon. Russian folk dances and Malcolm Arnold's Wind Quintet.

Important Reminders

[Full-Time Course of Study](#)

[Meeting Your Health Requirements](#)

[HR notice for on-campus employees](#)

[Is it your last semester of study?](#)

[Transferring from SU to a new U.S. school](#)

[Optional Practical Training EAD cards](#)

[Address Change Reporting Requirements](#)

[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

[Check your VISA Application Status in India](#)

[E-Verify Employers & Federal Contractors List](#)

[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

Quotes to keep you thinking

- "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." – **Leo Buscaglia**
- "Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation." – **Jean Arp**
- "I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers." – **Khalil Gibran**
- "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child." – **Carl Jung**

Stay informed about the latest news, important reminders and updates



distribute the information posted to this list as long as its contents remain unchanged.

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If you would like to submit news or events for the SCIS Newsletter, please send your information and any related graphics to arwagoner@syr.edu with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"