

**Syracuse University**  
**December 3, 2015 Edition**  
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**Important Issues**

**Be Aware of Scams**

There are a number of scammers which target students and especially international students. When we find out about new forms of scams, we attempt to notify you through the SCIS News. However, scams are constantly changing and becoming more unique and sophisticated. If someone is demanding money from you, we recommend that you seek advice from our office or DPS before paying them or giving them any personal information.

\*Scams often increase around the holidays. Be aware of offers/ sales that seem too good to be true or extremely urgent. If you have concerns about possible scam calls, emails, or other encounters, you may contact DPS to file a report.

**STEM OPT Update**

On August 12, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a court decision finding that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not follow required procedures when it created the STEM extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) back in 2008. The Court decision dictates that the STEM extension of OPT will no longer exist after February 12, 2016 but gives DHS six months (from August 12, 2015 until February 12, 2016) to submit the STEM extension regulations again following proper procedures. These six months should give DHS enough time to reissue the STEM extension regulations following proper procedures.

In the meantime, this court decision has no immediate impact on the employment authorization of students currently authorized for the STEM extension of OPT. This court decision does not prevent students who are eligible for the STEM extension of OPT from applying for the STEM extension by February 12, 2016. To be eligible for the STEM extension of OPT, you must be authorized for OPT on the basis of your program of study in a STEM field and have employment with an employer that participates in E-verify. You may apply for the STEM extension up to 120 days before the end date of your authorized OPT.

We have been informed that DHS is reviewing this court decision and will issue guidance in the next few weeks. We will inform you of any guidance we receive.

## Slutzker Center News and Events

### Travel

As you prepare to travel over the winter break, we suggest you attend a travel seminar. Travel seminars are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM and every Friday at 12 noon. The next travel seminar is tomorrow at noon. The last seminar for this semester is Friday, December 18 at 12 noon.

For F-1 students, if you picked up a new I-20 this semester, you should have a travel signature on the second page of the I-20 form. Travel signatures are valid for 12 months. If you need a new travel signature, be sure to bring your I-20, passport, visa, most recent I-94, and health insurance to a travel seminar to receive your travel signature.

If you are on a J visa, you must receive a signature on your form DS-2019 before traveling outside the US.

In order to re-enter the US, you must present a valid visa, valid I-20 or DS-2019 with travel signature, and your passport valid for 6 months into the future. You may review more information on travel and the travel seminar on our [website](#).

### Optional Practical Training

If you are graduating in December, you are now within the 90 day window to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). We recommend that you apply early because it can take 60 – 90 days for USCIS to process your applications.

Step 1: You must attend an OPT Seminar before you apply for OPT. OPT seminars are the first and third Wednesday, and second Friday, of each month at 3:45 PM in the Slutzker Center. The last OPT Seminar for the semester is Wednesday, December 16 at 3:45 PM.

Step 2: Once you have attended an OPT seminar, you need to bring all required documents to the Slutzker Center during our Practical Training processing hours (Mondays from 3PM – 5PM and Thursdays from 10 AM – 12 Noon). Please note, all University Offices will close at 5:00 PM on December 23 and will not reopen until 8:30 AM on Monday, January 4, 2016.

For more information please refer to our [website](#).

### Orientation Volunteers Needed Spring 2016 International Graduate Student Orientation

If you would like to help new students when they first arrive in Syracuse, we are looking for volunteers to help run Graduate Student Orientation on Friday, January 15, 2016 from 8AM -5PM.

If you are interested, please email [midzior@syr.edu](mailto:midzior@syr.edu) with your contact information.

### Peer Assistant Volunteers Needed Spring 2016 International Student Orientation

We are seeking [Peer Assistants](#) to help new students who will arrive in Spring 2016. If you are interested, please see the information on our website and complete the [form](#).

You may also contact, Fariba Rahmanzdeh, [farahman@syr.edu](mailto:farahman@syr.edu) for more information.

## Syracuse University Events

### Grand Canyon Trip Information Session December 3, 7:30 PM Hall of Languages 105

Outdoor Education is preparing for their annual backpacking and river rafting expedition in the Grand Canyon. If

you are interested in joining this trip from May 17 -25, 2016, there will be an informational meeting this evening.

For more information about the meeting or the trip, click [here](#).

**Holidays at Hendricks Concert**  
**December 6, 7:30 – 9:30 PM**  
**Hendricks Chapel**

"Holidays at Hendricks," the annual Syracuse University holiday concert, features the SU Brass Ensemble, the Hendricks Chapel Choir and organist Dr. Anne Laver, as well as special guests.

For more information, click [here](#).

**The Internship Search—How? Where? When?**  
**December 9, 1-2 PM**  
**235 Schine Student Center**

Are you wondering—When should I begin searching for an internship? Where should I look for an internship? Do I need to register my internship for credit and how do I do that? For answers to these and many other of your internship questions, attend one of the internship search workshops.

You should also be sure to attend a Curricular Practical Training Seminar at the Slutzker Center for further information about authorization for internships. The next CPT seminar is Friday, December 11 and the last CPT Seminar of the semester is Wednesday, December 16. CPT seminars begin promptly at 3 PM.

For more information, click [here](#).

## Cultural and Community Events

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Plowshares Craftsair and Peace Festival**  
**December 5 -6**  
**Saturday: 10 AM -5 PM**  
**Sunday 11 AM – 5PM**  
**Nottingham High School**  
**3100 E. Genessee St, 13210**

The Syracuse Peace Council will hold its 45th annual Plowshares Craftsair and Peace Festival on December 5 & 6. Plowshares is Central New York's premier multi-cultural craftsair. The festival includes over 120 area craftspeople and 20 community organizations as well as ongoing live entertainment and tasty food. Admission is on a sliding scale donation of \$2- 10 (you are asked to give what you can).

For more information, click [here](#).

**Syracuse Ballet presents The Nutcracker**  
**December 5, 1PM and 6PM**  
**December 6, 2 PM**  
**The Oncenter Civic Center Theaters**  
**421 Montgomery St, 13202**

Everyone's family holiday favorite comes to life on the stage of the Crouse Hinds Theater with spectacular and colorful dancing, costumes and sets. Performed by Central New York's very own professional ballet company, this is a Nutcracker that will enchant children and adults alike and is the must see dance performance of the holiday season.

For more information or tickets, click [here](#).

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### **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](#)

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"The world is changed by your example not by your opinion." - **Paulo Coelho**



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