

IN THIS EDITION

Events and Programs to Introduce you to Campus & Community

Important Issues

- Be Aware of Scams
- STEM OPT Update

Slutzker Center News and Events

- CPT/OPT Seminar
- Update Address
- Deadlines

Syracuse University Events

- *The Tribe*
- Mix It Up
- Orange Dialogue for Peace

Cultural and Community Events

- Clinton Square Ice Rink

Important Reminders

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

Curricular/ Optional Practical Training Seminar

In order to apply for CPT/ OPT you should attend an CPT/OPT Seminar before you apply. CPT/OPT seminars are the first and third Wednesday, and second Friday, of each month at the Slutzker Center. The CPT seminar begins at 3 PM and the OPT seminar begins at 3:45 PM.

***Please note: We have canceled the seminars for Friday, January 15. The next seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20. The seminar information is also available on our [website](#).**

We process CPT/OPT on Mondays from 3PM – 5PM and Thursdays from 10AM – Noon. If you cannot attend the seminar, you must review the information on our website before you can apply or CPT/OPT. In order to apply for CPT/OPT you must have all necessary documents prepared when you arrive at the Slutzker Center for CPT/OPT processing.

Make sure your address is updated in MySlice

Federal regulations require that F-1 students must report to their DSO (Designated School Official/International Student Advisor) any change of address within 10 days of moving. International students at Syracuse University should notify the Slutzker Center of address changes by logging into their MySlice account and updating the CURRENT address.

If your address is not up-to-date, it may prevent us from registering your SEVIS record for the Spring 2016 semester. So please login to your MySlice account today and make sure the CURRENT address listed is where you are currently living. For detailed instructions, click [here](#).

Students on OPT should update their address and employer information within 10 days of any change by submitting the [OPT Students Info Update form](#) found in the Forms section of the SCIS website.

Deadlines

Graduate Students: Certificate of Full Time Status February 9, 2016

To be considered full-time for immigration purposes, a graduate student must be registered for 9 credit hours per semester except in the last semester (if fewer credits are needed to graduate). Graduate students who are registered for fewer than 9 credit hours and who do not have an assistantship (TA, RA, or GA), but are considered to be full-time students because they are working on a thesis or dissertation or doing an internship, should file a [Certificate of Full Time Status](#) with the Registrar's Office by February 9, 2016.

Graduate and Undergraduate Students: Last Semester Memo February 9, 2016

If Spring 2016 will be your last semester and if you are registered less than full-time (Graduate students: 9 credit hours, Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours) you must file a [Last Semester Memo](#) with the Slutzker Center no later than February 9, 2016.

Note: you can only have one last semester. Please discuss any concerns you have about not being able to graduate in May with your academic department before you submit this form. Once you submit a Last Semester Memo, we will adjust the expected completion date on your I-20 accordingly.

Both forms are available on our website, under [forms](#).

Syracuse University Events

The Ukrainian Club of Syracuse University presents:

The Tribe

January 21, 1-4 PM

Eggers 060



A young boy arrives to a boarding school for the deaf. However, he soon falls in with the wrong crowd, where he is dragged into a life of crime. Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy's critically acclaimed [The Tribe](#) dives into this boy's life, where he must overcome these various challenges. Will he succeed?

"The Tribe: A Silent Movie With a Powerful Voice"
-The Atlantic

The film in its entirety is in Ukrainian Sign Language with no subtitles.
Co-Sponsored by the Falk College and the Slutzker Center for International Services

Mix It Up
January 22, 5 -7 PM
Slutzker Center

The first Mix It Up of the Spring semester is Friday, January 22 from 5 – 7 PM at the Slutzker Center. Dinner will be provided. This is a great chance to meet new students and catch up with friends.

Space is limited for this event. Please RSVP to ejvoigt@syr.edu if you would like to attend.

The next Mix It Up is Friday, January 29 from 5 – 7 PM in Schine 304.

Orange Dialogue for Peace
February 26 – 28, 2016

Depart from the Slutzker Center at 1:00pm on Friday February 26th
Return at 6 p.m. on Sunday February 28th

- Round Trip Travel to Camp Huntington in the Adirondacks
- Teambuilding, Snow Shoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Swimming
- Narrative Dialogue Sessions (a chance to share your experiences and learn about others)
- Moonlight Hike
- Lodging, meals and outdoor recreation equipment provided



To apply, please email the following information to Emma Voigt, ejvoigt@syr.edu
Subject line: Orange Dialogue for Peace Application, by February 6, 2016

First and Last Name
Department/School/Undergraduate or Graduate
Gender
Country of Citizenship
SUID/Telephone/Email
Fulbright Affiliation: Yes/No
A brief explanation of your interest in participating in this program

For more information, click [here](#), or contact ejvoigt@syr.edu with questions.

Cultural and Community Events

Clinton Square Ice Rink See schedule for hours of operation Open through the winter

Ice skating season is now open at the Clinton Square Ice Rink in downtown Syracuse.

For schedules, admissions, and skate rental fees, click [here](#).



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](#)

"Once you label me, you negate me." - Soren Kierkegaard



SCIS News is a listserv owned and managed by the Slutzker Center for International Services, Division of Student Affairs, at Syracuse University. It is the publisher of SCIS News. Permission is granted to freely distribute the information posted to this list as long as its contents remain unchanged.

If your e-mail account is on a server other than "syr.edu" and you would like to receive our newsletter, please e-mail your request to lescis@syr.edu. In the subject line, please type: "Subscribe to SCIS Newsletter" and mention your e-mail address and full name in the message.

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