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## Important Issues

### IMPORTANT

#### Tax Information

Tax information is not available at this time. GLACIER Tax Prep will be available for Syracuse University students in mid-February. Please watch the SCIS News and the [Slutzker Center website](#) for more information.

#### 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.

The next seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3. 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

### **Student Input Sought on Health Insurance See schedule of focus groups**

In March 2015, Syracuse University [announced](#) a student health insurance plan and policy, requiring all full-time, matriculated students—including undergraduate, graduate and law students—to carry qualifying health insurance coverage. As the University prepares for the 2016-17 policy implementation for all full-time, matriculated students, student input on health insurance coverage, waiver processes and communication methods is needed.

Planned focus groups are an opportunity to gather information from students on their experiences and preferences related to health insurance, which will help inform the health insurance plan and requirement moving forward.

Focus groups are scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 4, from 6-7 p.m.; and Friday, Feb. 5, from noon-1 p.m. Students interested in participating in a focus group should email [studentaffairs@syr.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@syr.edu) with the following information:

- Name
- Email
- Availability for all three focus groups (Students will only participate in one focus group, but are asked to provide availability for all three to facilitate scheduling. Email notification confirming a group will be sent.)
- Class year
- Whether you are subject to the health insurance requirement in 2015-16 or 2016-17

Pizza will be served.

For questions regarding the focus groups, contact Student Affairs at [studentaffairs@syr.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@syr.edu) or 315.443.8568.

### **SUArt Galleries Exhibition Reception "Poetry of Content: Five Contemporary Representational Artists" January 21, 5 - 8 PM SUArt Galleries**

The reception is free and open to the public. Over his more than 40 years as a painter and professor at Syracuse University, internationally recognized artist and guest curator Jerome Witkin has championed representation and narrative in his work and his teaching. "Poetry of Content" is his examination and celebration of the work of five painters who share his interest in the subject: Bill Murphy, Gillian Pederson-Krag, Joel Sheesley, Robert Birmelin and

Tim Lowly. Featuring more than 50 pieces of original artwork, this exhibition displays a variety of representational imagery as paintings, drawings and prints.

### Orange Dialogue for Peace February 26 - 28, 2016

**\*Due to an overwhelming number of applications, we have moved the deadline to submit applications up to Wednesday, January 27.**

## 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](#)

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." - **Martin Luther King, Jr.**



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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 [ejvoigt@syr.edu](mailto:ejvoigt@syr.edu) with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"