

Syracuse University
September 17, 2015 Edition
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Important Issues

Deadlines

**Graduate Students: Certificate of Full Time Status
September 21, 2015**

Note: Effective this year, the Graduate School has implemented a deadline for submission of the Certificate of Full Time Status to the Registrar's Office. The deadline to submit this certification is the financial deadline to drop a class for each Fall and Spring semester. In Fall 2015, the financial drop deadline is September 21.

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), OR have an assistantship or fellowship OR file a [Certificate of Full Time Status](#) with the Registrar's Office by September 21, 2015.

**All Students: Last Semester Memo
September 21, 2015**

If Fall 2015 will be your last semester, and 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 September 21.

Note: you can only have one last semester. Please discuss any concerns you have about not being able to graduate 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](#).

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. 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.

Recently, we found out about a scam in which people ask students for help to support their international travel. These people request various amounts of money with the least being \$400. They position themselves on campuses near ATMs, and they claim that anyone who gives them money will be reimbursed. BUT, they have no intention of returning any money.

Again, use caution when people ask you for money. Try to obtain additional information, do not give payment on the spot (especially in cash which cannot be traced), and seek advice from our office or DPS before you give any payment or personal 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

Address Update

Remember to update your MYSlice record with your current address in Syracuse.

Follow the format of the example to the left.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Address 1: 123 Main St.
Address 2: Apt. 1 (room 1, Bldg.. 1, etc.)
City: Syracuse **State:** NY **Postal:** 13210
County: Onondaga

I-20 Form Redesign

On June 26, 2015, the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) released a newly designed I-20 Form and requires that all active I-20s be replaced by July 1, 2016. You may continue to use your current I-20 Form for travel and as documentation for driver's licenses, Social Security Number applications, and I-9 verifications, until you receive the new I-20 Form.

The Slutzker Center is creating a plan to replace your I-20 during the Fall semester. Please watch the SCIS News for further information about this process.

Picture of the Week



Students participating in Orange Dialogue for Peace embrace the challenge of a high ropes course in the Adirondack Mountains.

Syracuse University Events

Workshop: International Student Alumni Panel **September 17, 5:30 – 7PM** **Hall of Languages 500**

Alumni who were international students at SU will share how they conducted job searches, networked, and secured a job in the US. The panel includes four alumni who work in different fields.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Arabic Conversation Table **September 22, 3 PM** **352 Eggers Hall**

Students, faculty and community members at all levels of proficiency are welcome. Eva Phillips, Arabic Language Instructor, Department of Languages, Literature and Linguistics leads the relaxed meeting. Pizza and beverages provided.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Chinese Student Association **Festival Invitation**

YOUR STUDENT FEE

2015
中秋

Schine Student Center
Goldstein Auditorium
Friday, Sep. 18, 2015

Starts at 7:00 P.M.. Enters at 6:30 P.M.

Tickets are available at Box Office
\$5/ Person with mooncake

  CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS
ASSOCIATION - SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

**Use Western Union to pay international
tuition fees**

The Bursar's Office is excited to announce a better payment option for international students!

The University has partnered with Western Union Business Solutions to offer a robust, convenient and cost saving (competitive exchange rates and lower bank fees) method for you to make your Bursar bill payment to Syracuse University. More information, including a video can be found here:

<http://comptroller.syr.edu/html/payments.htm>.

If you have any questions, please email us at



Cultural and Community Events

Dinner and a Movie
September 19, 6 PM
Palace Theatre
2384 James St

This is an opportunity to sample homemade food from across the African continent, prepared by chefs from Syracuse's Refugee and New American communities. A screening of "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" will follow with a discussion of themes from the film.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Neighborhood Potluck and UNPA
(University Neighborhood Preservation Association) Annual Meeting
September 17, 6 PM
Barry Park

Bring a dish to pass and hear about things happening in the University Neighborhood. For students living off-campus, this is a great way to get to know your community.

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](#)

"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." - **Sitting Bull**

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.The Twitter logo, featuring the word "twitter" in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a blue bird icon above the "i".

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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 with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"