

Syracuse University
September 25, 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. 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

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.

Syracuse University Events

Human Rights Film Festival Opening Night: September 24, 7PM Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom, Dineen Hall

The Syracuse University Human Rights Film Festival begins on Thursday, September 24th with the documentary "(T)error," and continues until September 26 with multiple films.

Click [here](#) for more information about films and schedules.

Student Diversity Summit October 2 – 3 Hendricks Chapel

The Division of Student Affairs is pleased to bring Dr. Kathy Obear to campus for a keynote address and training on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3. The keynote address on Friday, Oct. 2, is scheduled from 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel, with a community social and refreshments to follow in the Noble Room (lower level of Hendricks Chapel). ASL interpretation and Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) will be available.

This is a great opportunity for students from all over campus to engage in conversations about diversity and inclusion.

For more information, contact Shaun Crisler at scrisler@syr.edu.

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2015 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Click [here](#) to fill out the online registration form.

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 bursar@syr.edu.



Cultural and Community Events

Point of Contact's 40th Birthday Party
September 25, 6 - 8 PM
Point of Contact Gallery
350 W Fayette St, 13202

Point of Contact Gallery opened in 1975, so this is a 70s themed event to celebrate the 40th Anniversary.

Student tickets: \$5

Click [here](#) for more information.

"The Undersigned" Premiere
September 25, 8 PM
Landmark Theatre
362 S Salina St, 13202

WSYR-TV (NC9) and the Syracuse Int'l Film Festival are holding a premiere for the pilot of a new TV show shot in Syracuse, "The Undersigned." Proceeds from the event will go to benefit Vera House.

A modern day twist on Robin Hood where three women must hustle to survive. Leaving behind broken relationships and homes, they travel across the border to Syracuse NY. There, these women use their remarkable talents to steal only from criminals that the police are investigating.

For more information, or to buy tickets, 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](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

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

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

[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[Optional Practical Training EAD cards](#)

[Address Change Reporting Requirements](#)

[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

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[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

"Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work." - **Booker T. Washington**



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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"