

ISSO NEWS: May 2014

International Student Services Office (ISSO)
Clayton State University Center, Room #210

CONGRATULATIONS INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES!

ISSO congratulates 8 international students from 8 countries on 5 continents who speak 8 languages other than English on their graduation this May 10th! They are a combined total distance from home of more than 43,000 miles.

Completing a university degree in a foreign culture, often in a 2nd or 3rd language, at great expense, while gaining a deep understanding of U.S. culture and language, is truly a rare and remarkable achievement. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us. Best wishes in your careers and lives ahead!

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CSU COMMUNITY

Though you are graduating, you will always be a Clayton State Laker! The Clayton State University Alumni Association welcomes you. For more information on joining, click >> [here](#)

THAT SAID...

ISSO reminds you that after graduation, F1 students have a 60 day grace period to remain in the US. During this time, you can apply for OPT (see below), transfer, begin a new degree program, or change status to a different visa category. If you remain in the US after the grace period with no new status, you will be "unlawfully present". Please contact ISSO if you have questions.

O.P.T. (Optional Practical Training) Employment Authorization

O.P.T. or *Optional Practical Training* is off-campus employment authorization for international students. Many F1 students apply for OPT just before or after graduation. It's a benefit of your F1 Visa. For more information, see the ISSO website > Forms Channel, #7 and #8. Then, make an appointment with ISSO to get started: isso@clayton.edu

TRAVEL SIGNATURES

Before departing the US over summer, be sure to let ISSO check the travel signature on your I-20 and check your status in SEVIS. No appointment is necessary. If your visa, status or I-20 travel signature has expired, you won't be able to re-enter the US.

TAX INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (FINAL REMINDER)

The tax filing deadline for those who had income in the US in 2013 has passed. However, everyone must submit form 8843 even if they had no income. If you still need to submit form 8843, you have until **June 15, 2014**.

To find form 8843:

- Google: IRS form 8843.
- Look for the link with [.gov](#) and print the form.
- Complete only sections I, III and sign it.
- Keep a copy for your records and mail the original to:

*Internal Revenue Service Center
Austin, TX 73301-0215*

SUMMER ENROLLMENT REMINDER

For immigration purposes, you are not required to enroll during the summer term, but you can if you want to, part-time or full-time. You may stay in the US either way. Summer courses are the same as Fall and Spring courses, but many US students go home. As a result, classes are smaller, campus is not crowded, and you might be able to get ahead in your studies. This could save you living expenses in the long run. If you plan to work on campus, you must be enrolled in at least one class. You are not allowed to work off campus without authorization from USCIS. Please contact ISSO for more information.

OUT OF STATE TUITION WAIVER

The deadline to apply for a Fall Semester 2014 out-of-state tuition waivers (to pay in-state tuition like US Citizens who are legal residents of Georgia) is **July 15th**. For more information about eligibility and requirements, click >> [here](#)
Then click on "Forms" in the left column. Then, click the out of state tuition waiver form.

LIVE MUSIC RIGHT HERE ON CAMPUS!

To check out the final concerts of the season at Spivey Hall, click >> [here](#)

Clayton State students with valid ID have access to free, \$5 or \$10 max tickets. Take Advantage!

ISSO CLOSED

Friday, May 1 and Monday, May 5 – Personal Days

Wednesday, May 21 – Open at 1pm

Thursday, May 22 – Closed at 2pm

Friday, May 23 – Travel to Conference

Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day Holiday in the U.S. [What is Memorial Day? Click >> here](#)

Tuesday to Friday, May 27, 28, 29, 30 – Conference out of town

CONTACT ISSO

Hours: M-F, 8:30 – 5:30 / **E:** brettreichert@clayton.edu / **T:** 678-466-5499 / **F:** 678- 466-5469



To **subscribe or unsubscribe** from this newsletter list, just contact ISSO.

ISSO MISSION

To facilitate the success of international students at Clayton State through: 1) effective regulatory and compliance advising 2) providing access to diverse cultural and leadership opportunities, and 3) advocacy of cultural competence and global awareness campus wide.