

Office of International Students and Scholars



NEWSLETTER

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OISS ANNOUNCEMENTS

H-1B EMPLOYMENT VISA WORKSHOP

Friday, March 6th

3:00 p.m.

CBC A-108

Have questions about employment visas or Permanent Residency/H-1B? The *Law Office of Adam Green* will be here to present information to students for a free workshop. Adam Green is a well-known immigration attorney who visits UNLV annually to present information for international students. There will also be an opportunity for students to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

TAXES, TAXES, TAXES! FILE YOUR TAXES BY APRIL 15, 2009

Even if you did not work in 2008, you are still required to file taxes. UNLV has free software for international students to use. For more information, please see OISS or contact Debbie Honrath at nraassistance@unlv.edu. Her walk-ins are Tuesday and Thursday 10 - 12, Wednesday and Friday 11 - 1.

Getting your W-2: If you worked at UNLV at any time during 2008, UNLV has mailed you a W-2 form. You need the W-2 form to file your taxes. If you were on a tax treaty for your wages, or you had taxable scholarships for 2008, you will also need to get a 1042-S form to file your taxes. Look at your UNLV payroll check stub and make sure that it has your current mailing address. If you need to report a change of address, contact the UNLV Nonresident Alien Tax Specialist – Debbie Honrath. Failure to report your change of address could result in a delayed W-2 and/or 1042-S. You may access EQUUS through the UNLV Human Resources website (<http://hr.unlv.edu/>) to update your employee address, print out your W-2 form, change your direct deposit, and view your employment records. The annual W-2 is available on EQUUS by February 1st of each year. To access EQUUS, you will need your UNLV Employee Identification Number (printed on your payroll stub) and UNLV PIN, or password. If you do not have a PIN or password to access EQUUS, call Human Resources at 895-3504. Form 1042-S was mailed by the Nonresident Alien Tax Specialist the week of February 2, 2009.

Visa Waiver Program Update...

Many new countries were added to the “Visa Waiver Program (VWP)” in November 2008. The VWP allows citizens of certain countries to enter the US without having a visa, for up to 90 days.

International students should NOT enter the US under the VWP while you are studying full-time, because it will cancel your F-1 visa status! If you travel outside the US with an expired F-1 visa, you are required to obtain a new F-1 visa at the US embassy before you are allowed to return to the US and resume your F-1 status.

These countries participate in the VWP: *Andorra Iceland Norway Australia Ireland Portugal Austria Italy San Marino Belgium Japan Singapore Brunei Latvia Slovakia Czech Republic Liechtenstein Slovenia Denmark Lithuania South Korea Estonia Luxembourg Spain Finland Malta Sweden France Monaco Switzerland Germany the Netherlands United Kingdom Hungary New Zealand*

More information can be found at:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html#countries.

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APPLYING FOR OPT?

If you are finishing your FINAL credits for your degree in May, you should APPLY FOR OPT NOW! Department of Homeland Security still processes OPT applications in 90 days. Please call or stop by to make an appointment with an advisor to apply.

If you are completing your program in summer, you can begin applying for OPT at the end April.

***WHILE ON OPT...Once you have found employment, please contact us via e-mail, our website (studentlife.unlv.edu/international), or stop by our office to give us your employer's name and address. This is a new requirement.*Go to the form https://slt.studentlife.unlv.edu/opt_form/**

GET ON FACEBOOK! Please join our group on Facebook (www.facebook.com). Login and search for the Office of International Students & Scholars. We are using this group site to post information, updates, newsletter links, and other information that is important for YOU!



DON'T FORGET!

*Move your clocks ahead +1 hour
Sunday (March 8th)
2:00 a.m.
Daylight Savings Time.*

REMEMBER TO FORWARD YOUR UNLV REBELMAIL

You can forward your UNLV e-mail to your hotmail, yahoo, etc. Please do this to make sure you receive all of our e-mails! We send you important information (i.e. work permits, information updates, etc.), and we expect that you receive and read the e-mails.

HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Log into account management.** <https://secure.unlv.nevada.edu/swami/>
2. Click Change Mail Settings.
3. Click Set Forwarding Address.
4. For the Set Forwarding Address field, enter the e-mail address to forward mail to.

Spring/Summer 2009 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATION CELEBRATION!

Congratulations on your achievement! You and your guests are invited to join us in the celebration of your upcoming graduation. More information forthcoming.

Date: May 8, 2009

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Student Union, Rooms 208 A & B

Spring Break

Spending spring break in Las Vegas? <http://getinvolved.unlv.edu/leadership/alternative-breaks.html> to get involved! Spring break is April 4 – 11, 2009.

UNLV Department of Police Services – Emergency Mass Notification System

UNLV's Emergency Mass Notification System is now available! The system sends e-mail notifications to members of the campus community via personal cell phones, university cell phones, personal e-mail and university e-mail.

Have you registered? Visit the E.N.S. website at...<https://unlv.sendwordnow.com>

UNITYFEST 2009

Festival of Communities: SIGN UP for your booth today!

The 2nd Annual Festival of Communities is coming soon! International food tasting, cultural displays of art, dance, and culture will transform campus into a truly unique showcase of all that is encompassed within the world of diversity!

The booths are available and free to student organizations, individual students, faculty, and staff. You may sell foods, art crafts, and other related things to raise fund for your organization or you may recruit new members and promote your upcoming events for your organization. The Office of Student Diversity Programs and Service will provide each booth with up to \$100 REIMBURSEMENT for expenses related to the festival of communities. Sign up at our website!

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 2 pm - 7pm

Location: Student Union Pida Plaza

Contact: Bir Azam, bir.azam@unlv.edu or Kevin Vicker, kevin.vicker@unlv.edu, 702-895-5607

Website: http://getinvolved.unlv.edu/entertainment/festival_of_communities/index.html

BUDDIES PROGRAM

Program Description: The Buddies Program partners International and Domestic students for friendship, fun and cultural exchange. Improve your English and learn more about US culture! Sign up today at <http://sia.unlv.edu/buddies.html>!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUDDIES!

Buddies and friends gather at X.O. Karaoke across from UNLV and enjoy singing with friends and get to know new people!!

Join the buddies and meet new people!!

When: March 7th at 6:30pm

Where: Across UNLV at X.O. Karaoke

Contact: Michelle Sernas email: michelle.sernas@unlv.edu Phone: 702-895-5639

IN HER SHOES COFFEE HOUR

Come discuss how wymen are perceived around the world! Topics include beauty, motherhood, prostitution and many more!

Sponsored by International Council and SODA (Students Organizing Diversity Activities)

Date: Thursday, March 12

Time: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Contact: Carrie Sampson - carrie.sampson@unlv.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAREER WORKSHOP

Learn how to interview successfully!

Who: International Council and Career Services

Where: SU Room 209

When: March 19th

Time: 12 pm to 1:30 pm

Contact: kevin.vicker@unlv.edu

INDIAN NIGHT SPRING 2009: JOSH

Come Celebrate India and its Cultures with the ISA: dance performances, vocalists, food and DjPhul
Mixing on the dance floor with all your favorite Bollywood Songs.

When: Saturday, March 27th, 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Where: UNLV Student Union Theater

Cost: Free

Contact: Phulpreet- phul9112@gmail.com

SAKE

When: Thursday, March 12th, 2009

Where: BEH 228 (Boyd Dining Room)

Time: 11:00 – 1:30

Reservation: 702-493-0155

2008 STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE US

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✧ How many international students are studying in the U.S?
 - 623,805
- ✧ Which U.S. school has the most international students?
 - University of Southern California (with 7,189 international students)
- ✧ Which country has the most international students in the U.S?
 - India (94,563)
- ✧ Which major is the most popular for international students in the U.S?
 - Business/Management
- ✧ How many international students are there at UNLV?
 - 1,339 (spring 2009)

Question from a student...

I am enrolled in 13 credits, but I am failing one class. Can I drop the class so it doesn't hurt my GPA?

- ✧ No, you should not drop the course, or you will be enrolled in less than 12 credits. You can receive a bad grade, and retake the course at a later time. If you get a better grade, it will recalculate your GPA to include the higher grade.