***NEW OPT STEM EXTENSION REGULATIONS***

The new Federal regulations regarding OPT STEM Extension were published today, March 11, 2016. During this transitional time, we are waiting to see how SEVIS will respond to the new changes. There is a technical issue involving the extension of dates from 17 months to 24 months, so please be patient with the ISS staff during the implementation period. We are all learning together!

For more detailed information about the update visit the Federal Register website [here](#). You can also read the announcement on ICE’s website [here](#). In addition, SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) has launched the [STEM OPT Hub](#) to assist with questions and resources on this rule. It presents the information in a manner that is easy to understand. **We strongly encourage you to visit these websites and read this information!**

**PLEASE NOTE: The ISS staff has temporarily halted issuance of the OPT STEM I-20s for a brief period, while we obtain additional guidance from SEVIS/USCIS.** Our primary concern is to protect your immigration/employment status. We want to prevent students from paying multiple application fees and also ensure that you are granted the full 24 months of OPT STEM extension. Processing the OPT STEM requests too soon may disqualify you from having the updated benefits.

The ISS office will periodically update the [OPT webpage](#) as we obtain additional guidance. To request an OPT STEM Extension I-20, please complete the form on the ISS [website](#). Contact our office with any questions – su-iss@okstate.edu or 405-744-5459.
TAX WORKSHOPS FOR INTERNATIONALS

Tax Return Information – Avoid Rumors and Get the Facts!
There has been a lot of talk lately about getting a refund of tuition on your tax return. That is simply NOT possible. There are some tuition deductions and credits, but these are ONLY available to resident taxpayers. Remember that international students in F or J status are considered nonresidents for tax purposes for the first 5 calendar years in the U.S. If you are a nonresident for tax purposes, you must file a 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ. Tuition deductions and credits are not available on those forms. **DO NOT jeopardize your immigration status by filing an illegal resident tax return.** If you use an online program that transmits electronically, you are automatically filing a resident tax return.

TAX WORKSHOPS

Don’t miss these helpful workshops that show you how to use special software for international students, and how to complete Oklahoma tax forms! Bring any tax forms you have received, such as W-2, 1042-S, or 1099 (NOTE: Not everyone has all these forms. Some people only have a W-2). **You must know your passport number.** If you have a copy of last year’s tax return, bring it with you.

Taxes are due on **April 18, 2016**, since April 15 is a federal holiday. Taxes forms must be in the mail (post marked) by **April 18, 2016**.

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<tr>
<th>When</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Mar. 11</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
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<td>Saturday, Mar. 19</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Mar. 31</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Apr. 08</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
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Download the printable schedule [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the ISS Office at 405-744-5459 or su-iss@okstate.edu.
OPT WORKSHOPS

It’s time again for OPT! The ISS Office will be holding a series of OPT Workshops during the Spring semester. If you are graduating this May and are planning to apply for OPT, you are strongly encourage to attend these helpful workshops.

There is only one workshop left! Don’t miss it!

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<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>212 Classroom Building</td>
<td>5:30pm – 6:30pm (presentation will include a summary of the OPT Stem Updates that are to be published on March 11, 2016)</td>
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NEW!! Special session for OPT STEM Extension Update

| Apr. 18 | 313 Classroom Building | 7:00pm |

The OPT STEM update was published today and the ISS will be presenting a detailed description of the new OPT STEM regulations. Come and bring your questions. The presentation will be helpful to all students who are planning to graduate in the next year.

When you’re ready to apply, visit the ISS Office to meet with an advisor. As always, you can contact us any time with questions – su-iss@okstate.edu or 405-744-5459.

SPRING BREAK TRAVEL

Spring Break is next week March 14 – March 18. If you are planning to travel outside the U.S. during Spring Break (like a cruise or special study-abroad class) you must get a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 before you leave. Stop by the ISS Office to get a signature if you plan on traveling during Spring Break week.

If you have any questions contact us at 405-744-5459 or su-iss@okstate.edu.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING BREAK!!
COWBOY BASEBALL

When: Friday, March 11 at 4:00pm; Saturday, March 12 at 2:00pm; Sunday, March 13 at 1:00pm
Where: Reynolds Stadium (on Duck St. between Hall of Fame and McElroy)
Admission: $5

Come support the Cowboys this weekend as the take on the Abilene Christian University Wildcats! If you can’t make it in person, the game will be broadcast on Cowboy Sports Network radio (93.7 FM). Visit okstate.com to buy tickets, to get more info, or to see schedules for other OSU sporting events.

OSU ART MUSEUM FAMILY DAY

When: Saturday, March 12 from 11:00am – 3:00pm
Where: OSU Art Museum
Address: 720 S. Husband St.
Admission: FREE

On the second Saturday of every month the OSU Museum of Art hosts a free Family Day from 11:00am to 4:00pm! Each Family Day consists of hands-on, family-friendly creative activities for all ages. This week’s activities are sponsored by Betty and Bon Kerns.

Visit the Museum’s website for more information, or call 405-744-2780.
O'CITY ST. PATRICK'S FEST & PARADE

*When:* Saturday, March 12 at 11:00am  
*Where:* Bricktown  
*Address:* 2 S Mickey Mantle Dr., Oklahoma City 73104

On Saturday, March 12th come to the "pot o' gold" in Bricktown at the O'City St. Patrick's Day Parade! The parade starts at 11:00am in Downtown OKC and ends in Bricktown with plenty O' live music, delicious food and fun for everyone. So don your emerald attire, and head to OKC’s premiere entertainment district with the whole family!

You can learn more at [ocityparade.com](http://ocityparade.com).

FASHION ARENA OKC 2016

*When:* Saturday, March 12 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm  
*Where:* Cox Convention Center  
*Address:* 1 Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City 73102  
*Admission:* $10 – $50

The Fashion Opera is excited to announce its 2016 showcase! Drama is the name and The Art of Fashion will be the game at this year’s Fashion Arena – you will surely be inspired! The Fashion Opera continues its tradition of entertaining you with fashion while introducing thought provoking presentations with the purpose of inspiring you to have a healthy relationship with beauty.

For more information contact The Fashion Opera at [fashionopera@live.com](mailto:fashionopera@live.com) or 214-962-6325, or visit [thefashionopera.com](http://thefashionopera.com).
SPRING BREAK AT MUSEUM OF OSTEOLOGY

When: March 14 – March 18 from 8:00am – 5:00pm
Where: Museum of Osteology
Address: 10301 S Sunnylane Rd., Oklahoma City 73160
Admission: $8 for adults; $7 for children 3 yrs. – 12 yrs.

The Museum of Osteology will be having hands-on activities throughout the week of Spring Break! Activities will include building a moving model of a human hand, skeleton crafts, and touchable museum specimens. All activities are included in the price of admission. Museum hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday with activities from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

The Museum of Osteology is a unique educational experience. Focusing on the form and function of the skeletal system, this 7000 square ft. museum displays hundreds of skulls and skeletons from all corners of the world. Exhibits include adaptation, locomotion, classification and diversity of the vertebrate kingdom. It’s the only one of its kind in America!

Contact the Museum at 405-814-0006 for more information, or visit museumofosteology.org.

AUTO ALLEY SHOP HOP

When: Thursday, March 17 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Where: Automobile Alley, Oklahoma City (map)
Address: N Broadway Ave., between NW 4th St. & NW 10th St.

On the third Thursday of every month, cruise historic Automobile Alley for the Shop Hop! There will be open house events at local shops, extended shopping hours at retailers, live music, street artists and performers, kids' activities, great food from Auto Alley restaurants, discounts, freebies and giveaways! Follow @AutoAlleyOKC and #ShopHop on Twitter for event updates.

Visit the Downtown OKC website for a list of participating vendors and for more information.
ST. PATRICK’S DAY

Thursday, March 17th is St. Patrick’s Day! The holiday is celebrated in many parts of the world, both as a religious and cultural holiday. St. Patrick’s Day held on the day of the death of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, and commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. In the U.S. many people celebrate their Irish heritage on this day, and it’s common to wear green and eat Irish-inspired foods (like corned beef and cabbage), and many cities hold festivals and parades. You can learn more about the holiday here!

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK’S DAY!!
COWGIRL SOFTBALL

**When:** Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30pm  
**Where:** Cowgirl Stadium (corner of Duck St. and McElroy Rd.)  
**Admission:** $5

Come cheer on the Cowgirls as they play against the Missouri State Bears! If you can’t make it to the stadium, catch the live stream on the OSU Athletics YouTube Channel. Visit okstate.com to buy tickets, to get more info, or to see schedules for other OSU sporting events.

STAND-UP PADDLE BOARD WITH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

**When:** Every Saturday, March 19 – April 30 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm  
**Where:** Camp Redlands  
**Admission:** $70 for all sessions; $25 for individual sessions

Join Outdoor Adventure in a weekly afternoon of stress free Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (SUP)! Learn the ins and outs of this unique sport held at our very own Camp Redlands. Sign up for all sessions or pay as you go. No experience is necessary! This program is open to students, employees and community. Transportation is not provided. Maps to Camp Redlands may be found at the Outdoor Adventure office and will be provided at registration.

To register, stop by the Outdoor Adventure office in the Colvin Center (at the base of the Colvin climbing wall). **Registration Deadlines:** For all sessions – Friday, March 11 at 12:00pm. For individual sessions – Thursday at 12:00pm on the week of the event.

For more information contact Outdoor Adventure at 405-744-5581 or wellness@okstate.edu.
CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM TOUR WITH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

When: Sunday, March 20
Where: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
Address: 600 Museum Way, Bentonville, AR 72712
Admission: $45

Join Outdoor Adventure for a day trip to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art! Celebrate the American spirit in a setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature. There are trails, overlooks and a skyspace surrounding the grounds that we will visit. Enjoy a chance to get out of town and decompress for a day. This event is open to OSU (Stillwater campus) students.

The registration deadline is TODAY – Friday, March 18. To register, stop by the Outdoor Adventure office in the Colvin Center (at the base of the Colvin climbing wall). For more information, contact Outdoor Adventure at 405-744-5581 or wellness@okstate.edu.

LIBRARY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted for the OSU Library Ambassador Program! The OSU Library Student Ambassadors represent the student face of the library by supporting our events and programming and by contributing to increased library engagement with the campus community. Ambassadors will gain valuable experience working with library staff and faculty, representing the library as professional, knowledgeable and courteous advocates for our services, spaces and resources. OSU Library Student Ambassadors will be selected for an initial one-year term. Terms will begin in early August, the exact date to be determined by the program director, but there will be an initial spring meeting to coordinate planning for the fall semester. Employment as an ambassador during the summer is a possibility. The application period will close on March 20, 2016.

For more information, eligibility requirements, or to apply for the program, visit the Library’s website.
CULTURAL NIGHT 2016

When: Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 7:00pm
Where: Seretean Center
Admission: $5 – $10

iSo's Cultural Night is the biggest international event at OSU! Area clubs from different countries come together as ensembles and compete to show their beautiful culture, which is reflected in their songs, dance and drama. This event is also accompanied by musical and dance performances by other student bodies of OSU. Cultural Night truly manifests the spirit of international community at OSU!

Tickets: Tickets will be on sale today in the Student Union from 11:00am – 2:00pm. From March 21 – 25, tickets will be sold at the Chi O Clock (between Student Union and Classroom Building) from 11:00am – 2:00pm. (Sales will move inside the Student Union in case of bad weather)

Questions? Contact the International Student Organization at iso@okstate.edu.
BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY AT TULSA ZOO

When: Saturday, March 26 at 9:00am  
Where: Chapman Event Lodge at Tulsa Zoo  
Address: 6421 E. 36th St N., Tulsa 74115  
Admission: $25 (children under 3 yrs. old – $5)

Celebrate spring at the Zoo during Breakfast with the Bunny! This special event will take place at 9:00am on Saturday, March 26. You are invited to enjoy a scrumptious breakfast, an up-close animal encounter, and most importantly, meet the Easter Bunny! Cost of registration includes:

- A full hot breakfast buffet, served at 9:15 am (including eggs, pastries, fruit, coffee, tea, milk, and more!)
- A craft project to create animal enrichment for our African painted dogs and southern white rhinos
- Photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny
- Animal encounters
- Unlimited train and carousel rides

Space is limited, so register today! Visit the Tulsa Zoo website for more information about the event, including full breakfast menu, or to buy tickets. Or contact the Zoo at awatson@tulsazoo.org or 918-669-6634.
2016 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AWARENESS DAY

**When:** Monday, April 4 from 9:00am – 12:30pm

**Where:** Oklahoma State Capitol

**Address:** 2300 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City 73105

The International Student Awareness Day Committee and the Oklahoma Governor’s International Team would like to invite currently enrolled international students to attend the International Student Awareness Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol! The event will feature free booths, entertainment, and the Official Oklahoma State meal. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with other international students and network with state officials, Honorary Consuls, and university and business representatives. Students must bring a photo ID and wear a nametag that includes the name of their University.

**You must register by Friday, April 1 in order to attend this event!** Registration forms must be submitted by email to intlstudentday@okhouse.gov. For a registration form, please contact Tiffany Elczyyn at 405-557-7402 or tiffany.elczyyn@okhouse.gov.

SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

March is the beginning of severe weather season in Oklahoma. Strong storms (with lightening, strong winds and hail) are common in Oklahoma during the spring, typically from March through May. Some storms can be very severe and can even produce tornadoes.

To learn more about how to be safe in severe weather situations, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association’s (NOAA) weather safety website. You can find a list of on-campus severe weather refuge locations on the Campus Safety website, as well as tips for staying safe and a link to sign up for Cowboy Alert (automated alert system). When storms move into the area, keep up by following the meteorologists on local T.V. stations from Oklahoma City and Tulsa. You can also stay informed with a weather radio, which only broadcasts weather reports.