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### ***NEW OPT STEM EXTENSION REGULATIONS***

The new Federal regulations regarding OPT STEM Extension were published 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](#). 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](mailto:su-iss@okstate.edu) or 405-744-5459.

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### 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**.

These are the last two workshops of the season! Be sure to attend if you need assistance!

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<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Mar. 31</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Apr. 08</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
<td>1:00pm</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 encouraged to attend these helpful workshops.

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

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<th>When</th>
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<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>212 Classroom Building</td>
<td>5:30pm – 6:30pm</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 March 11 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.

CULTURAL NIGHT 2016

**When:** Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 7:00pm  
**Where:** Seretean Center  
**Admission:** Friday Night (March 25): $5 (students & non-students)  
Saturday Night (March 26): $6 (students) & $8 (non-students)  
$2 extra at the door

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:** You can reserve your tickets online here, or purchase tickets at the Seretean Center at 6:00pm before the show starts.

Questions? Contact the International Student Organization at iso@okstate.edu.
CONTRA DANCING

When: Friday, March 2 from 7:30pm – 11:00pm  
Where: Student Union Ballroom  
Admission: FREE (suggested donation of $5)

Join the Scissortail Traditional Dance Society of Oklahoma in Contra Dancing this Friday! Random Notes will be providing live music and Louise Siddons will call the dance. No experience is necessary to attend! Lessons will be given at 7:30pm before the dance begins at 8:00pm.

Contra Dancing is an American folk dance that is derived from English Country Dancing brought to America by the early settlers. It is related to square dancing and traditional European dance forms, and
over the course of its history has incorporated elements of swing, jazz, and rock and roll. Live music with roots in Irish and old-time American traditions is normally played at Contra Dances, but there are as many styles of music as there are dancers!

For more information about Contra Dancing or the Scissortail Traditional Dance Society of Oklahoma, visit their website at scissortail.org or their Facebook page.

PERSIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC

When: Sunday, March 27 at 6:00pm  
Where: Student Union Theater  
Admission: $15 to enter

The Iranian Student Organization is proud to present the Grammy Award nominee Hossein Alizadeh and Akhavass Pezhham for an evening of traditional Persian music! Admission is free, but seating is first come first served, so reserve your seat today! You can learn more about the musicians and reserve your seat at eventbrite.com.

SUAB KARAOKE
**When:** Tuesday, March 29 from 11:00am – 1:00pm  
**Where:** Cowboy Underground (Student Union Basement)

Come to the Cowboy Underground for karaoke! **SUAB** is happy to bring **Tuesday Tunes** to the Student Union. Students will be able to karaoke to their favorite songs as they eat lunch and have fun with their friends every Tuesday until the end of the semester!

Contact SUAB with any questions – suab@okstate.edu or 405-744-8977.

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**COWBOY BASEBALL**

**When:** Tuesday, March 29 at 6:00pm  
**Where:** Reynolds Stadium (on Duck St. between Hall of Fame and McElroy)  
**Admission:** $5

Cheer on the **Cowboys** as the take on the **University of Arkansas Razorbacks**! If you can’t make it in person, the game will be broadcast on Cowboy Sports Network radio (93.7 FM) or on TV on Fox Sports Plus. Visit [okstate.com](http://okstate.com) to buy tickets, to get more info, or to see schedules for other **OSU** sporting events.

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**ART DEPARTMENT MOVIE NIGHT**

**When:** Wednesday, March 30 at 6:00pm  
**Where:** 109 Bartlett Center  
**Admission:** FREE

**Movie Night** continues at the Bartlett Center next Wednesday with a screening of **Shirin Neshat: The Woman Moves and Rapture**. Shirin Neshat’s work addresses the complex forces shaping the identity of Muslim women throughout the world and explores the social, political, and psychological dimensions of women’s experiences.

Professors Pouya Jahanshahi and Jennifer Borland will introduce the film and lead a post-film discussion. The screenings are **FREE** and open to all!

For more information, contact Sally Schuh at sally.schuh@okstate.edu.
HRAD INTERNATIONAL DINNER

**When:** Thursday, March 31 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm  
**Where:** Taylor’s Dining Room (2nd floor in Human Sciences West)  
**Admission:** $18

The graduate students in the **School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration (HRAD)** invite you to their biennial fundraising event – an **International Dinner**! A three-course meal will be served including appetizer, entrée and dessert, and will highlight cuisine from around the world. A vegetarian and gluten-free menu will also be available. Tickets cost $18 per person and may be purchased at Taylor’s Dining. **Only 120 tickets are available**, so stop by Taylor’s Dining soon if you’re interested!

Contact Mike Kneip at **michael.kneip@okstate.edu** with any questions.
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 Elcyzyn at 405-557-7402 or tiffany.elcyzyn@okhouse.gov.
Concluding a cross-cultural community art experience across campus and our Allied Arts season, is the eloquent sound of quartet ETHEL accompanied by GRAMMY Award-Winning Native American Flute player Robert Mirabal. During this performance, the audience will be immersed in a flow of music, narrative, and ritual that evoked timeless Native American traditions through contemporary musical artistry.

Tickets can be purchased online at tickets.okstate.edu or by phone at 405-744-7509. Tickets will be available at the OSU Seretean Center Concert Hall the evening of the performance beginning at 6:30. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Allied Arts at 405-744-7509.

IRS SCAMS PHONE CALLS

The ISS Office has received more reports that students are receiving scam phone calls from the IRS. The caller tells the student that they owe money (sometimes thousands of dollars) to the IRS, and they must pay or be arrested. **DO NOT LISTEN TO THESE CALLERS – JUST HANG UP!! THESE CALLS ARE NOT REAL! THE IRS WILL NOT CALL YOU TO INFORM YOU OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS; ALL OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE WILL BE BY PAPER LETTER.**

Please contact the ISS Office with any questions or concerns, or to report scam calls – su-iss@okstate.edu or 405-744-5459.

SUMMER 2016 AND FALL 2016 ENROLLMENT

**OSU** is in the process of moving to a new records system, which goes into effect in August for the Fall semester. Because of this, online enrollment for classes in Summer will be registered in the old system (SIS) and online enrollment for classes in Fall semester will be registered in the new system (Banner). Early enrollment for Fall and Summer opened **Monday, March 21**. You must be sure to enroll using the correct system, so your classes will be registered to your record properly.

- If you are enrolling in classes for **Summer 2016 classes**, click [here](#).
- If you are enrolling in classes for **Fall 2016 classes**, click [here](#).
Contact the Office of the Registrar in room 322 Student Union with any questions – registrar@okstate.edu or 405-744-6876.

DIPLOMA APPLICATION DEADLINE

Important notice to students! If you are graduating this semester, the deadline to submit your diploma application is Friday, April 1 for your name to appear in the spring commencement program. Contact the Office of the Registrar in room 322 Student Union with any questions regarding your diploma application – registrar@okstate.edu or 405-744-6876.

If you would like to invite your family to visit you for graduation and would like to request an invitation letter from the ISS Office, you must file your diploma application first! After submitting your diploma application, fill out the invitation letter request on the ISS website.

To unsubscribe from the listserv, visit our website here, enter your name and email, select “Remove”, and click submit. Missed a listserv mail? Check the archives here!