**OPT STEM Transition**


**For Students with Pending OPT STEM Extensions as of May 10, 2016:**

DHS will continue to accept and adjudicate applications for 17-month OPT STEM extensions through May 9, 2016. Beginning on May 10, 2016, USCIS will issue a “Request for Evidence” (RFE) to students whose applications are still pending on May 10, 2016. The RFE will allow these students to effectively amend their application to demonstrate eligibility for 24-month extensions without paying an additional fee or having to refile the Application for Employment Authorization.

On May 1, 2016 the ISS will update the “Request for OPT STEM Extension” link to begin accepting applications to issue I-20s for the 24-month OPT. At the time of the request the student must upload the completed Training Plan – Form I-983 in order for the I-20 to be issued. To request an OPT STEM Extension I-20, please complete the form on the ISS website.

**Withdrawing and Reapplying for OPT STEM** – If the student has recently received an I-20 for the OPT STEM extension and has not mailed the application, the student may want to withdraw the application to avoid the RFE and the delay in approval. Before the student decides to withdraw the application, be sure the end date of the 12-month OPT is after May 10, 2016. However, if the 12-month OPT expires while the OPT STEM application is pending, the student will automatically receive an extension of the employment authorization up to 180 days beyond the expiration of the EAD. The OPT STEM Extension must be receipted with USCIS prior to the end date of the 12-month OPT. Visit [studyinthestates.dhs.gov](http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov) for more information about withdrawing.

**For Students with Existing 17-month OPT STEM EADs on May 10, 2016:**

Any 17-month OPT STEM EAD that is issued before May 10, 2016 will remain valid until the EAD expires or is terminated or revoked. Starting on May 10, 2016, students with valid EADs will apply for an additional 7 months of OPT, so the student can receive the 24-month period of OPT STEM employment. To qualify for the 7-month extension, the student must satisfy the requirements listed on the ISS [OPT webpage](http://www.iss.okstate.edu/policy-and-guidance/opt-7-month-employment-authorization).

**OPT STEM Extension Not Extended** – Students currently on 17-month OPT STEM extension who do not qualify for the 24 month OPT STEM extension will be permitted to complete the 17-month OPT STEM period.
Denial of 24-Month OPT STEM Extension – If the application for the 7-month extension is denied, the student will continue to follow the regulations for the 17-month employment authorization.

This Transition Plan is available in full detail on the ISS OPT webpage. This webpage will be updated periodically as our Office receives additional guidance. Contact ISS 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.

There is only one workshop left! Be sure to attend if you need assistance!

When | Where | Time
---|---|---
Friday, Apr. 8 | Math Science Computer Lab | 6:00pm

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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>5:30pm – 6:30pm (presentation will include a summary of the OPT Stem Updates that are to be published on March 11, 2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>212 Classroom Building</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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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.

DIPLOMA APPLICATION DEADLINE

**Important notice to students!** If you are graduating this semester, the deadline to submit your diploma application is TODAY, 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.

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.
SPRING 2016 WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

Friday, April 8 is the deadline to withdraw from classes with an automatic “W” on your transcript (with your advisor’s signature). If you need to withdraw from a class and do not want an “F” grade on your transcript, be sure to meet this deadline. Contact the Registrar’s Office in 322 Student Union with any questions – registrar@okstate.edu, 405-744-6876.

Remember – International students are required to be enrolled full-time in order to maintain status. DO NOT withdraw from a class if it will cause you to drop below full-time enrollment. Contact the ISS Office if you are unsure or have any questions about this – su-iss@okstate.edu or 405-744-5459, or stop by our office in 250 Student Union.

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.

BRADY DISTRICT ART CRAWL

*When:* Friday, April 1 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm
*Where:* Brady District
*Address:* 7 E Brady St., Tulsa 74103

This year-round monthly event features all of the galleries, studios and museums as well as the part-time galleries in various shops opening their doors to show art. The Art Crawl is held on the first Friday of the month and is a venue for local artists are given an opportunity to display and sell their work. Besides the mini-galleries being open, the established museums and galleries offer free admission and many shops stay open late. During any given Art Crawl, visitors can expect visual art, performances and maybe a few fireworks! Each venue offers something different and creative, a true hallmark of the Brady Arts District.

Visit [thebradyartsdistrict.com](http://thebradyartsdistrict.com) for more information.
U.S. AIR FORCE BAND OF THE WEST

**When:** Friday, April 1 at 7:00pm  
**Where:** Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame  
**Address:** 111 E 1st St., Tulsa 74103  
**Admission:** FREE

The United States Air Force Band of the West will perform at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa tonight! The Band of the West is a musical organization with an outstanding record of achievement. The Airmen assigned to the band are highly-trained professional musicians who have dedicated themselves to serving their country through music. The Band of the West has performed for presidents, heads of state, and dignitaries from around the world earning an outstanding reputation among America’s military bands. The concert is FREE and open to the public!

For more information visit bandofthewest.af.mil or call 405-739-2215.

CENTER FOR VETERINARY HEALTH SCIENCES OPEN HOUSE 2016

**When:** Saturday, April 2 from 9:00am – 4:00pm  
**Where:** Center for Vet Health Sciences (corner of Farm Rd. and McFarland St. [map])

Oklahoma State University’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences (CVHS) will be open to the public on Saturday, April 2 for its annual Open House! We encourage pet owners, those interested in pursuing veterinary medicine careers and anyone who is interested in learning more about activities at the CVHS to join us. Our students coordinate Open House and are very proud to show visitors the many different facets of their profession. From research, to teaching tomorrow’s practitioners, to treating Oklahoma’s livestock and companion animals, there is much to see and do at Open House. Come and visit Oklahoma’s only veterinary college!
You can view a full listing of the day’s events and get more information on the CVHS website.

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**2016 STILLWATER HOME AND GARDEN SHOW**

*When:* Saturday, April 2 (9:00am – 5:00pm) and Sunday, April 3 (10:00am – 5:00pm)  
*Where:* Payne Country Expo Center  
*Address:* 4518 Expo Cir. E  
*Admission:* $5 (children 15 and under FREE)

Come out to Payne Country Expo Center for the 27th Annual Stillwater Home Builders Association Home and Garden Show! The show features dozens of vendors specializing in home improvement. There will also be food trucks, activities for children, free trees, and lots of cash prizes!

For more information visit the Stillwater Home Builders Association website or contact them at stillwaterhba@gmail.com.

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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 TODAY – April 1 – in order to attend this event!** Registration forms must be submitted by email to [intlstudentday@okhouse.gov](mailto:intlstudentday@okhouse.gov). For a registration form, please contact Tiffany Elcyzyn at 405-557-7402 or [tiffany.elcyzyn@okhouse.gov](mailto:tiffany.elcyzyn@okhouse.gov).

SUAB CARNIVAL FOR CHANGE

**When:** Tuesday, April 5 at 4:00pm  
**Where:** Student Union Plaza

Come out to the Student Union Plaza (between Student Union and Classroom Building) for the **SUAB Carnival for Change**! Contact the **Student Union Activities Board** for more information – [suab@okstate.edu](mailto:suab@okstate.edu) or 405-744-8977.
CHEROKEE MAIDENS & SYCAMORE SWING CONCERT

*When:* Thursday, April 7 at 7:00pm  
*Where:* Old Church Center  
*Address:* 750 N Main St., Perkins 74059  
*Admission:* $25 in advance; $30 at the door; $20 for senior citizens (65 and older)

For the first time since the release of their latest record, the Cherokee Maidens host a pre-season show at the Old Church in Perkins, OK! The Cherokee Maidens & Sycamore Swing pack a punch with a long resume of time-hewn experience. Robin Macy, Cimarron Valley Songbird Monica Taylor and young Jennifer Melcher join a troupe of crackerjack musicians, led by Kentucky White, their guitar-slinger and featuring some of the fabled Tulsa Playboys, Shelby Eicher and Steve Bagsby. It’s a great show for all ages!

For more information or to buy tickets visit cimarronbreeze.com.

ETHEL & ROBERT MIRABAL: A COMMUNITY AT THE RIVER

*When:* Friday, April 8 at 8:00pm  
*Where:* Seretean Center  
*Admission:* $22 for adults; $10 for children 12 and younger

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.
OSU HORTICULTURE CLUB PLANT SALE

*When:* Saturday, April 9 from 8:00am – 5:00pm  
*Where:* OSU Teaching Greenhouses (just south of Colvin Center)

The 41st Annual Horticulture Club Plant Sale will be here soon – next Saturday, April 9! A variety of beautiful plants, grown by the Horticulture Club, will be available for purchase. The plant sale will start promptly at 8:00am, so come early for the best selection. The sale will take place on the east side of the OSU Teaching Greenhouses, just south of the Colvin Center. You can find a list of available plants and some prices on the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture website. Be sure to check back after March 31 for more detailed information!

SUAB SPLISH ‘N SPLASH

*When:* Thursday, April 14 from 4:30pm – 6:30pm  
*Where:* Willard Lawn  
*Admission:* FREE

Join SUAB on the Willard Lawn (between Theta Pond and Willard Hall) for the SUAB Splish ‘n Splash on Thursday, April 14! There will be water slides and games, free hotdogs and snow cones, and tons of fun. Admission is FREE!! Contact SUAB for details – suab@okstate.edu or 405-744-8977.

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