OPT STEM TRANSITION PLAN


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 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.

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.

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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.

This is the last workshop! Be sure to attend if you need assistance!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Apr. 8</td>
<td>Math Science Computer Lab</td>
<td>6:00pm</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**

This final workshop will present information regarding the OPT STEM Extension update. 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.

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

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 2016 WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE**

**Friday, April 8 – TODAY** – 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.

COWBOY BASEBALL

When: Friday, April 8 at 6:00pm; Saturday, April 9 at 3:00pm; Sunday, April 10 at 1:00pm
Where: Reynolds Stadium (on Duck St. between Hall of Fame and McElroy)
Admission: $5

Cheer on the Cowboys as the take on the Texas Tech University Red Raiders in a three-game series this weekend! 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 to buy tickets, to get more info, or to see schedules for other OSU sporting events.

COWGIRL SOFTBALL

When: Friday, April 8 at 7:00pm; Saturday, April 9 at 2:00pm; Sunday, April 10 at 12:00pm
Where: Cowgirl Stadium (corner of Duck St. and McElroy Rd.)
Admission: $5

The Cowgirls are hosting the Iowa State Cyclones in a triple-game series this weekend! 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.

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!

KOREAN EXPO: EXPERIENCE KOREA

_When:_ Saturday, April 9 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm  
_Where:_ Student Union Theater  
_Admission:_ FREE

Head to campus this weekend for the Korean Expo! The Korean Student Association presents an evening of fun and cultural events. Admission is FREE and open to the public! Don’t miss it!!
**SPRING SING 2016**

*When:* Saturday, April 9 at 5:30pm  
*Where:* Gallagher-Iba Arena  
*Admission:* $10 ($12 at the door)

Members of the Greek community at Oklahoma State University will take the stage to showcase their musical talents at *Spring Sing 2016!* This year’s show will include 13 group acts each following their own unique theme and celebrating the 50th anniversary of Spring Sing. Even though each cast has their own unique theme, they must incorporate one song from the Billboard Top 100 Hits from the year 1966, the inaugural year of Spring Sing. At the end of the last show, judges will tally the scores and awards will be presented to the top three group acts.

Tickets for Spring Sing can be purchased in advance for $10 at [okstate.showclix.com](http://okstate.showclix.com) or for $12 the evening of the performance at Gallagher-Iba Arena. For more information contact Millie Van Horn at [millie.van_horn@okstate.edu](mailto:millie.van_horn@okstate.edu).

**OKC ENERGY SOCCER TEAM**

*When:* Saturday, April 9 at 7:00pm  
*Where:* Taft Stadium  
*Address:* NW 27th St., Oklahoma City 73107  
*Admission:* $12 - $44
Watch Oklahoma City's USL Pro soccer team, the **OKC Energy**, take on St. Louis FC this Saturday! Tickets can be purchased online at [energyfc.com](http://energyfc.com), where you will also find information about the team and the upcoming schedule.

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**JAMES FRANCO**

*When:* Wednesday, April 13 at 4:00pm  
*Where:* Gallagher-Iba Arena  
*Admission:* FREE for OSU Students, Staff, and Faculty (with valid OSU ID card)

The **OSU Speakers Board** is proud to host **James Franco** at Gallagher-Iba Arena on April 13! **Franco**, who is known for his acting, writing, directing and producing, comes to Stillwater for a moderated question and answer session to share the different aspects of his life. The Speakers Board plan on having questions that balance his career in Hollywood as well as his studying and teaching at prestigious universities. For those interested in submitting questions for **Franco**, they can tweet them to the Speakers Board (@OSUspeakers).

Admission is **FREE** for OSU students, faculty and staff with a valid OSU ID! General admission tickets are available for the public for $10. Doors will open at 6:00pm and sign-language interpreters will be available for a reserved section at the event. Contact the **Student Government Association** with any questions – [sga@okstate.edu](mailto:sga@okstate.edu).

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**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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**YOGA IN THE GARDEN**

**When:** Thursday, April 14 from 5:45pm – 6:30pm  
**Where:** OSU Botanic Garden  
**Address:** 3425 W Virginia Ave. (map)

There is no better way to unwind at the end of a long day than through yoga practice and guided relaxation! Bring your mat and join Yoga Therapist Carol Bender as we shed the worries of the day and welcome nature. Each practice will incorporate a short centering practice, gentle yoga stretches and a guided relaxation. Join us on the lower (east) lawn of the Display Gardens near the vegetable garden.

In addition to a yoga mat, participants may want to bring sunscreen, water, insect repellent and a small hand towel to make practice more enjoyable. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Wellness and The Botanic Garden @ OSU.

Check the Botanic Garden’s [Facebook page](#) for cancellations due to weather or for more information.

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**SUAB MOVIE NIGHT**

**When:** Thursday, April 14 at 7:00pm  
**Where:** Student Union Theater  
**Admission:** FREE
Join **SUAB** for a Star Wars movie night! The newest addition to the Star Wars saga, *The Force Awakens*, will be shown in the Student Union Theater at 7:00pm. Admission is **FREE** and **SUAB's** famous $1 concessions will be available for purchase!

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**FRIDAYS, FOODTRUCKS, & TUNES**

**When:** Friday, April 15 from 6:00pm – 10:00pm  
**Where:** Downtown Stillwater (7th and Husband St.)

*Fridays, Food Trucks & Tunes* is back again in Downtown Stillwater! This year the event will be held on the 3rd Friday of each month (April – August) and will again have the addition of OSU Home Football Friday Pre-Game Parties in September and October. These events provide various types of amazing food, the Louie’s beverage garden, live music, and a free kid’s area including OSU inflatables. Wear orange and bring your lawn chairs or blanket!

Visit [downtownstw.com](http://downtownstw.com) for details and a full schedule. Check out the Downtown Stillwater Facebook page for more information and updates of events!

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