

AUGUST 2009

Newsletter

Welcome!

Welcome!

Welcome – and welcome back – to a new semester and year at NC State University. We hope that everyone is settling in, staying healthy, and getting the courses you need and want. New International Student Orientation last week was terrific and more than 670 *new* international students have checked in with OIS so far. (If you are a new student and have not checked in yet, please do so immediately.) The University's new Interim Provost, Dean Warwick Arden, gave a warm welcome to the students and a number of other speakers from important campus units shared critical information that new students needed to hear. After lunch in the Fountain Dining Hall, students participated in mini-sessions throughout Talley. To view photos from the Orientation and Information Session visit our gallery at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/oisncstate> and select the OIS 2009 Orientation folder.



The 2009 Orientation at Stewart



Learning an American Dance at last year's Welcome Party

The New International Student **Welcome Party** (this year's new international students who are paying the OIS Orientation fee only please) will be held Friday night, August 28th, at the College of Textiles Convocation Center (on Centennial Campus) from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. The Wolfline will be operating so hop over for food, fun, and friendship. You will NOT be disappointed—Food is provided.

We want to give special thanks to the Orientation Team: PingPong Urkasemsin, Jose Santa Cruz, Ranjith Kumar, Manoj Vyas, Hamed Yarmand, and Hui Wang. These students worked closely with Lauren Ball all

Spring and Summer to plan all the programs and services associated with Check-in, Orientation, Small Groups, the Info Fair, the Welcome Party, and temporary housing. MIS graduate student and OIS assistant Diane Armstrong did a terrific job of coordinating airport pick-ups on behalf of OIS. Thanks also to Maitri, CSSFA, our small group leaders, check-in volunteers, temporary hosts, and countless others who helped welcome and support our new international students.



The 2009 Info Fair at Talley

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Make Up New Student Orientation

To NEW students who did not attend the New International Student Orientation on Friday, August 14: Please attend our brief make-up orientation in Daniels Hall, Room 426 on Monday, August 31st from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Confirm your attendance on the 31st by sending a brief email to ois@ncsu.edu with your name and campusid. It is not necessary to attend if you attended on the 14th. Please be sure you to also check-in with OIS in Daniels 320 before then (be sure to bring your passport and immigration documents).

New Semester Reminders



Have you visited the new OIS website yet?
www.ncsu.edu/ois

OIS Helpdesk Training Session



OIS will be hosting a workshop on Monday, September 14th, 10:00-11:30 AM in the Walnut Room at Talley Center. Come find out how to request an I-20 Form or other benefit.

New Semester Reminders

Be sure you register for a full courseload (at least 9 hours for graduate students and 12 hours for undergraduates). Also, please check the MyPack Portal to ensure your **PHYSICAL** ([click for more info](#)) address is correct. [Your *Permanent Address* should be your home country address.] OIS is confirming full-time enrollment and address format for all F-1 and J-1 students so we can register your attendance in SEVIS. This is essential for maintaining your immigration status. Don't drop below fulltime without talking to an OIS advisor. For other SEVIS requirements, please check out the [enrollment page](#) and [immigration overview page](#) on the OIS Web site.

J-1 students who wish to work on-campus **MUST** submit a [J-1 OnCampus Request](#) through the [OIS HelpDesk](#) in order to work legally. While F-1 students may work on-campus (physically on the University campus and paid through University Payroll) up to 20 hours per week during the semester, J-1 students are required to have all employment specifically authorized in their SEVIS record.

Check the OIS website or OIS KnowledgeBase (the FAQ feature of the new OIS HelpDesk) to learn how to change your level of study, change curriculum, invite family members, transfer, change status, get a travel signature, do a program extension, apply for off-campus work authorization, and a hundred other things.

Social Security Card Applications



If you are in F-1 or J-1 status and have an on-campus job (or offer), then you are eligible for a Social Security number. The on-campus Social Security application event is Wednesday, August 26th from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Talley Student Center Ballroom. There is no need to register for this opportunity, but please be prepared to wait a little while before you speak with a SSA representative. To make this process faster for everyone, please also have your Social Security application filled out before the event. If you would like to apply before then—or miss the on-campus event—you can go in person to the Social Security Administration building at 4701 Old Wake Forest Road in North Raleigh to apply for a card. Be sure you update your hiring department and the Payroll office with your SSN after you get it. Social Security applications are available at OIS or online at: <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.pdf>

What to take:

1. I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1)
2. I-94 card
3. Passport
4. On-campus job offer letter (original and signed)

You will not be able to apply if you are missing any of these four items.

F-2 dependents are not employment eligible and therefore not eligible to apply for the SSN. J-2 dependents may apply for a SSN only if they've applied for and been granted work authorization from USCIS and have a written offer of employment. Those who have US source income such as an interest-bearing account or otherwise need to file a US federal income tax return can apply for



International students, scholars, and spouses are invited to participate in the Service NC State 2009 this Saturday (08/22) from 3 to 6 p.m. at Carmichael Gym. OIS has reserved 20 slots for you to show your volunteerism and help feed the hungry of the world. Contact lauren_ball@ncsu.edu to reserve your spot.

**Welcome Week Events
for all new Students**
[http://www.ncsu.edu/
welcomeweek/
schedule.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/welcomeweek/schedule.html)

OIS Programs Update

OIS is now accepting student applications for all cultural programs: Breaking Bread, International Friendship Program, ISSERV, Culture Corps, Departmental Ambassadors. Are you looking for a way to meet Americans, improve your English, or make a difference in the community? Learn about the programs at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/ois/programs/> and find the applications under each program description. It is easy to sign up—you'll be glad you did.

English Conversation Club

As classes begin this week, both English Conversation Clubs start back on their regular schedules. Our Thursday group will meet from 3:30 – 4:30 at the Port City Java at the College of Textiles on Centennial Campus. Our Friday group will meet from 3:30 -4:30 in Daniels Hall Room 216. All are invited to come and practice their English while interacting with friendly native English speakers! There is no application necessary for either group. Simply stop by for friends, fun and great conversations!

Football Tours

NC State football season is just around the corner and tickets are free to all students at NC State! Games are a lot of fun and a great way to get out and do something different. To help welcome international students to NC State football, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) has arranged for tours of the Murphy Center at Carter Finley Stadium. Students have the opportunity to go on a guided tour of the Murphy Center and learn about the rich football tradition at NC State. This opportunity is open to new and returning students. Tours begin in early September and spaces are limited. Please contact Lauren_Ball@ncsu.edu if you are interested.

Are you looking for other ways to volunteer? Please email Lauren_Ball@ncsu.edu if you are interested in volunteering with OIS, NC State University organizations, or community programs.



Alternative Service Break

What are YOU doing Fall, Winter, or Spring Break? Join other students (American and international) for an **Alternative Service Break** with CSLEPS. Why not go to Washington DC from October 8-11 and engage in service projects oriented around alleviating hunger with 29 other NC State students. Application deadline is September 23, 2009. You must attend one of the information sessions. Students in F-1 or J-1 status who are selected to go should contact Lauren Ball for additional scholarship information. More information about application procedures, dates, and deadlines available at: http://www.ncsu.edu/csleps/service/asb_trip_information.htm

OIS Walk-in Hours

Monday through Friday
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Stop by 320 Daniels for
quick questions, drop-
offs, and pick-ups.

For information regarding
walk-in topics and ques-
tions that require an ap-
pointment, please read:

[http://www.ncsu.edu/ois/
contact.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/ois/contact.php)

OIS, Serving You...

Daniels Hall, Room 320

Office: 8a.m. - 5p.m.
Walk-ins: 2p.m.- 3p.m.

Phone: (919) 515-2961
Fax: (919) 515-1402

Email: OIS@ncsu.edu
www.ncsu.edu/ois

The OIS Newsletter

This html newsletter is being sent to all international students at NC State – both those who are currently registered and those who are out doing post-completion OPT. If you are not an international student at NC State University and you receive this newsletter by mistake, please let us know and we will remove you from the list. This newsletter and the OIS Web site are our official channels for communicating important and timely information to the international student and scholar community at the University. We intend to send out 3 to 4 issues each semester and we pledge to not clutter up your inboxes with lots of recurring and unwanted e-mail. In each brief issue we will highlight immigration changes, important events and activities of interest to internationals here at the University, opportunities to get involved in—both on and off campus—and occasionally spotlight interesting facts or people. **Please read this newsletter for critical information and please add OIS@ncsu.edu to the safe sender list in your e-mail program to ensure you receive our communications.** This monthly newsletter will also be saved on the OIS Web site if you need to go back and retrieve important information.

Health Insurance

New students must ensure copies of all required immunizations are on file with Student Health. All F-1 and J-1 international students who are enrolled at NC State University are required to purchase university health insurance administered through Student Blue (formerly Hill, Chesson, and Woody). International students who have not already purchased Student Blue insurance for the 2009-10 academic year must do so by September 1, 2009 to avoid possible holds on future registration or release of NC State academic records. Further details about the requirement and exceptions, as well as a link to the Student Blue webpage where application and payment information can be found, are available here: <http://www.ncsu.edu/ois/current/insurance.php>

CPT Session Schedule — Fall 2009

All CPT Info Sessions begin at 11:00 a.m.*No need to sign up.

The Info session will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. It is important that you arrive on time. Both an OIS advisor and Co-op representative will be on hand to answer questions and distribute the necessary CPT forms.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Monday, August 31	228 Poe Hall
Tuesday, September 15	301 Clark Hall
Monday, September 28	228 Poe Hall
Tuesday, October 13	301 Clark Hall
Monday October 26	228 Poe Hall
Tuesday, November 10	301 Clark Hall
Monday, November 23	228 Poe Hall
Tuesday, December 8	301 Clark Hall

OPT Information Sessions — Fall 2009

Every Wednesday at 3p.m. Location is Daniels Hall – Room 434

Please arrive on time. Contact OIS for any additional information or questions.