

NEWSLETTER:

This monthly newsletter is intended for students on F-1 and J-1 visas. If you received this in error, please disregard.

This newsletter contains important information regarding your student visa status and relevant announcements for your international student experience. Please read it carefully and completely.

International Student and Scholar Services News - March 2021

Announcements:

International Night!

International Night is finally here! We were saddened that we had to postpone this event due to COVID-19 in 2020, but now we are very excited to bring you the first virtual International Night with the theme “Zoom Around the World.” This event will still feature some of your favorite aspects of International Night, but with some fun new twists! Be sure to mark your calendars and don’t miss this chance to connect with the international community at the University of Utah.

Date: Friday, April 2

Time: 6:00 PM

Format: Zoom

If you are part of a national student organization (Saudi Students Club, VASA, Brazilian Club, etc.) and would like to represent your country at International Night, please email isc.universityofutah@gmail.com with the subject line “INTERNATIONAL NIGHT.” Be sure to follow @uofu_isc on Instagram for more updates about the event.

Looking for an on-campus job?

Become a SafeU Ambassador: University of Utah Safety is [now accepting applications](#) for its new SafeU Student Ambassador program—a year-long paid leadership opportunity focused on safety-related projects on campus beginning in fall 2021.

ISSS Scholarship for International Students on an F-1 Visa

The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Scholarship recognizes campus and community engagement among international students and scholars from a diverse set of cultures. Scholarship recipients represent outstanding contributors who may have extenuating circumstances that require financial need, and yet have strong academic performance and make time to participate in the community with a goal of serving others and promoting engagement in co-curricular activities during their time at the University of Utah. Each scholarship is valued as a total of **\$4,000** and will be applied as **a tuition waiver of \$2,000 for the Fall and \$2,000 for Spring semester of the academic year 2021-2022**. Further information on eligibility and how to apply for this opportunity is [posted online](#). The student application deadline is Friday, April 2nd, 2021 by 11:59PM Mountain Time.

UCampaign: I Am U Thriving

I AM U THRIVING is a visual story campaign that focuses on the individuals that are a part of our One U community. The photographs will highlight and validate the experiences of our community members, particularly those of color and other marginalized populations on campus. I AM U THRIVING is being led by Student Affairs and operates within the larger [One U Thriving](#) initiative, which is being led by [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#). One U Thriving remains the broad and overarching initiative to create change on campus.

An open campus photo shoot takes place on March 5, 2021. Come share your I AM U THRIVING story with our campus community by getting your photo taken at our open campus photo shoot on March 5, 2021. This event will take place on campus. COVID-19 precautions are being taken and I Am U Thriving Masks will be provided. [Complete the form](#) to secure your 10-minute time slot between 8:30am-5:00pm MST.

Tax Reminder!

All International students & scholars who lived in the U.S. in 2020 must file taxes by **April 15, 2021**.

ISSS is partnering with a service called [Sprintax](#) to assist non-residents for tax purposes in preparing their federal and state tax filings online. If you use Sprintax, we are offering an access code to help offset the cost of filing. Sprintax access codes will be available beginning **February 8, 2021**.

For more information, visit our [tax webpage](#) or email us at tax.international@ic.utah.edu

Spring 2021 CPT and OPT Workshops

Our Spring 2021 CPT and OPT workshops are well underway - check out our [workshops webpage](#) for the full schedule and registration information. Our next workshop is for OPT and will be hosted Wednesday, March 3rd from 2-3 PM. Sign up in [UAtlas](#) today!

General Reminders:

COVID-19 Updates:

Refer to our [COVID-19 FAQ](#) page for the most up to date announcements concerning COVID-19 for the University of Utah as an F-1 or J-1 student for the Spring 2021 semester!

Resources

During this unprecedented time, we continue to encourage you each to reach out to the [ISSS office](#) if you have concerns. This can be due to immigration questions, financial concerns, feelings of loneliness and isolation, struggling in classes with grades or keeping up with online courses, or maybe you are just looking for something to do in the local community! There are many resources our office can put you in reach with. Here are a few resources that might be helpful:

- [Resources During COVID-19](#). A comprehensive list of financial, educational, food, fitness, things to do, wellness, and UofU resources.
- [Student Success Advocates](#): Meet with an advocate to help you in creating success on campus! Their office also has a helpful list of UofU [Tools for Success](#).
- Wellness resources:

- If you are in need of real-time 24/7 crisis intervention, then you can text [SafeUT by using their app](#).
- Local 24-hour crisis line by calling 801-587-3000 anytime day or night and connect with the [Utah Crisis line](#).
- Interested in free and guided meditation then check out the UofU's [The Mindfulness Center](#) for virtual drop-in visits.
- Check out tips on [Coping with COVID-19 Uncertainty](#).
- Make an appointment with the [University Counseling Center](#) for free & confidential virtual meetings with a counselor!

Travel

ISSS does not recommend traveling outside of the U.S. at this time, since we are unable to predict how current travel restrictions may change in the future. Please continue to check the [COVID-19 FAQ](#) page on the ISSS website for updates as they become available. We do not know how long [COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) will last and what additional countries may be added or removed from the restrictions already in place. Both current travel restrictions and visa processing delays at U.S. consulates, for students who need a new F-1 visa, might make it impossible for some students to enter the U.S. and return to campus.

If you are reentering the U.S. please be aware of [travel guidance](#) domestically or internationally at this time. ***Any travel you choose to do during this time is at your own risk.*** Due to COVID-19, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol as well as USCIS are allowing the use of digitally signed forms of I-20s.

If you need a travel signature, you can complete the E-form “*I-20 reprint request*” in UAtlas and we will process a signed *electronic* copy of your I-20. Once the I-20 has been processed you will be able to access the completed document in your UAtlas portal. You will need to **print** your I-20, and complete the “Student Attestation” section of the I-20 for it to be valid.

As a reminder, travel signatures are valid for 1 year for enrolled students, and 6 months for those on OPT or STEM OPT.

Please refer to our [COVID-19 FAQ](#) for further details on travel recommendations at this time.

Beware of Scams:

International students and scholars at University of Utah and other universities across the U.S. have frequently been targets of a variety of scams using phone, email, social media, and other means. The scammers will also often use your personal information to deceive you. **The university, a police department, or the U.S. government will never call you directly and demand immediate payment over the phone.** We recommend you to review our “[Beware of Scams!](#)” webpage for further tips and information related to scams.