

International Student Newsletter



Back to School

Welcome back to a new year and a new semester at SRJC. We currently have 114 International students. We are welcoming 22 new international students to our college for the Spring 2009 semester. Many countries are represented, including Austria, China, New Zealand, Nepal, Romania, Russia, and many more. We hope you enjoy your stay at SRJC!



Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview of the basic regulations for International students. To maintain your legal status, you must:

- Enroll in and successfully complete 12 units each semester
- Have a valid SEVIS I-20 from the school you are attending.
- Report any address changes to International Admissions within 10 days.
- Have permission for any work on campus.
- Limit enrollment in online classes to 3 units per semester.

Contact Kim Hunt in International Student Admissions if you have questions.

February Calendar

February 01	Last day to add with Instructor add code
February 08	Last day to drop classes without a "W"
February 12	Professional Development Day- no classes
February 13	Lincoln's Day Holiday- no classes
February 14	Happy Valentine's Day!
February 16	Washington's Day Holiday- no classes
February 22	Last day for CR/NC option

Scholarship News

This is the time of year to apply for scholarships. The SRJC Foundation scholarships are available to all students. The Margaret Trussell and Christine Judson Scholarships are additional scholarships available to International students.

Foundation Continuing Student Scholarship
Available to students who have completed 12 units at SRJC and will continue their studies during the upcoming year. Deadline: March 2, 2009.

Foundation Transferring Student Scholarship
Available to students who have completed 60 transferable units (at least 24 units at SRJC) and will transfer to a four-year institution during the upcoming academic year. Deadline: March 2, 2009

Margaret Trussell and Laurie Judson Scholarships
Two awards of \$550 will be awarded in Fall 2009. Students can apply for both scholarships on the same application form. Deadline: March 6, 2009.

Doyle Scholarship Update

At this time, SRJC is unable to offer Doyle Scholarships to new students. Applications for renewal awards are still available. If you are a continuing student receiving a Doyle scholarship for Spring 2009, you can reapply. Deadline: March 2, 2009.

For more information, contact the Scholarship Office at 527-4740. You can visit their office in Plover Hall, Santa Rosa campus, or Call Hall, Petaluma campus. You can also visit their website at: www.santarosa.edu/scholarship.



Congratulations to Kunal Patel of Tanzania, recent winner of the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.

Local Festivals and Events

San Francisco Chinese New Year Festival

February 7



This celebration is the largest celebration of Asian culture outside of Asia. It has been a San Francisco tradition for over 150 years. The parade includes floats, elaborate costumes, ferocious lions, exploding firecrackers, and the famous 200 foot Golden Dragon. The parade begins at 5:15pm at the corner of Market Street & Second Street.

www.chineseparade.com.

Amgen Tour of California

February 14-22

Now the largest cycling event in America, the Amgen Tour of California is a "Tour de France-style" cycling road race. The world's top professional cycling teams travel an 800-mile course throughout the state of California. Teams from the U.S., Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands will compete. Stage 1 of the race begins in Sacramento and ends in Santa Rosa. The cyclists will ride through downtown Santa Rosa around 4pm on February 15th.

www.amgentourofcalifornia.com

21st Annual Russian Festival 2009

February 20-22

The festival is a celebration of Russian food, art, music, dance and traditional crafts, and attracts thousands of people from all over the San Francisco Bay Area and the world.

Russian Center, 2450 Sutter Street, San Francisco

www.russiancentersf.com

Chinese New Year Celebration

February 28

A cultural celebration including dance, song, magic, martial arts and traditional Chinese foods. Sponsored by the Redwood Empire Chinese Association.

Veteran's Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

www.recacenter.org

Apply for OPT Now

Optional Practical Training (O.P.T.) is a benefit of the F-1 Student Visa status that allows students to engage in temporary employment in the United States. O.P.T. allows one year of full time employment to gain practical experience in your field of study. You must wait until you have earned an Associate Degree before applying for this benefit. The work must be directly related to your field of study. If approved by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (US CIS), you will receive an Employment Authorization Document, or EAD card. You are not allowed to begin working until the start date listed on the card. Students are not required to attend school while on O.P.T.

Current processing times for Practical Training applications are 3-4 months. **If you are graduating in May and wish to begin working in June 2009, you should apply now.** Contact Kim Hunt in Admissions for application forms and instructions. You must apply for O.P.T. before the end date on your SEVIS I-20 form. US CIS advises students not to leave the country while a request for work permission is being processed. Travel is possible once you have received your EAD card.



Happy
Valentine's Day
February 14th

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www.santarosa.edu/app/international_students/newsletter/