

International Student Newsletter



Practical Training Guidelines

Optional Practical Training (O.P.T.) is a benefit of the F-1 Student Visa status that 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 major. 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. You do not need a job offer to apply for Practical training, but it is a good idea to begin looking for a job a few weeks before you expect to receive your work authorization card. Current processing times for Practical Training applications are 3-4 months. **Any student wishing to begin working this Summer should apply now.** You must apply for OPT before you complete your program. 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 receipt notice or EAD card. You are not required to enroll in classes while on OPT. For more information and application forms, please contact Kim Hunt in International Admissions.

March Calendar

March 1	Foundation Scholarships Deadline
March 13	Daylight Savings Time Change
March 18	Trussell Scholarship Deadline
March 21-27	Spring Break – no classes
March 28	Midterms reports available
March 29	Second 8-week classes begin

Income Tax Information

All Americans are required to file Income Tax Returns each April. International students are often surprised to learn that they may have tax filing obligations as well while they are in the United States. The Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, expects you to file a return if you earned more than \$9,350 dollars in the U.S. during the last year. All students working on campus should review the W-2 tax form sent to you by SRJC to determine your total income for the year. Due to the complexities of the U.S. tax system, we can only provide you with general information here. Filing deadline this year is **April 15, 2011**.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service: www.irs.gov

Tax filing requirements for International students and scholars: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=129239,00.html>

To file a tax return, you will need form **1040NR** or **1040NR-EZ** for non-residents.

Form 1040NR-EZ: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nre.pdf>

Instructions: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nre.pdf>

If you did not earn any income during 2010, you only need to file **Form 8843**:

Form 8843: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

Spring Break!

Spring Break vacations are an established cultural tradition for American college students. The beaches in Florida, Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas are the most popular destinations. SRJC's Spring Break is March 21-27. If you are traveling outside of the United States, remember to have your SEVIS I-20 signed before leaving. Have a fun and safe holiday!

Local Events

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

March 12, 10:00am to 5:00pm

This festival of Irish culture has been celebrated for 160 years, since the very early days of the city of San Francisco. Irish music and dance performances, arts, crafts, traditional foods and cultural displays will be featured. The parade begins at 11:30 am at the corner of Second and Market streets. The festival will be held at the Civic Center Plaza and surrounding areas. Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco

<http://www.sresproductions.com/sfstpatricksdays.html>



Mexican Style Music & Dance Performance

March 12, 7:30-9:30pm

Back by popular demand, a performance by this exceptional all-women Mariachi band from the Bay Area. De Colores, a local all-women's dance group, will open the show. Newman Auditorium, SRJC Santa Rosa Campus

Middle Eastern Dance Performance

March 15, 12:00-1:30pm

A special performance of both classic and modern Middle East Dance. There will be a short talk on the history of Middle Eastern Dance and it's role in Arabic and American culture. Doyle Room 230, SRJC Petaluma Campus

Swedish Students Visit Soon

A group of 21 students from Sweden will be visiting SRJC from March 24 to April 29. These students are in their final year of an Entrepreneurship program at *Sven Eriksonsgymnasiet*, a secondary school in Borås, Sweden. This program trains them to become successful business professionals who can work with people with diverse perspectives, cultures and languages. They work with local businesses in Sweden and complete cooperative projects with students in other European countries. Their program concludes with a visit to the United States to observe differences in American business and society. After graduating, many will go on to study at Universities in Sweden or travel to other countries to attend universities there. The students will attend SRJC courses in Business, Political Science and P.E., and will visit Sonoma County companies in order to compare various business practices with those in Sweden. They will also tour the local courthouse and visit some historical places in Sonoma County. While they are in Sonoma County, the students will be living with local families. After their visit here, they will travel to Nevada and Southern California before returning home to Sweden. The students are very excited about their visit and are looking forward to meeting and talking with SRJC students and staff. They will make a presentation titled "**The Swede: A World Citizen**" to the college community on April 4th, at 7:00 p.m. in Newman Auditorium, Santa Rosa campus. If you see these students on campus, please make them feel welcome!

The newsletter is published monthly by:
Kim Hunt, International Admissions,
Admissions, Records & Enrollment Development Office,
Bailey Hall, Santa Rosa Campus.
Phone: 524-1751 Email: khunt@santarosa.edu.
The newsletter is available online at:
www.santarosa.edu/international/newsletter.html