

International Student Newsletter



Back to School

Welcome back! Summer is over, and the Fall 2010 semester has begun. SRJC is welcoming 21 new International students to our college this fall. Over 16 different countries are represented, including Bahamas, Brazil, China, France, Korea, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam and many more. We hope you enjoy your stay at SRJC!

College News

Student Information Days, September 14 and 15 BBQ, live music, club information and more. September 15th at the Santa Rosa campus and September 14th at the Petaluma campus.

WOW! Wellness Fair September 15 & 29
Visit the exhibitor booths outside under the oaks near the bookstore to learn about wellness, fitness, nutrition, emergency preparedness and health screenings. The fair will be at the Santa Rosa campus on September 15th and the Petaluma campus on September 29th.

No-Smoking Ordinance
SRJC is officially a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited on campus and within 20 feet of all college property.

September Calendar

Aug 29 Refund Deadline for Semester length classes
Sept 5 Last day to add a class with Instructor permission
Sept 6 Labor Day Holiday- no classes
Sept 12 Last day to drop a class without a "W"
Sept 26 Last day for Pass/No Pass option

Short courses (less than a semester in length) have different deadlines for adding, dropping and refunds. Check your course section number online to confirm deadline dates for a specific course.

Scholarship \$\$\$\$

The Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship is once again available for International students. To qualify for this scholarship, students must have completed 12 units prior to Fall 2010, must continue for Spring 2011, and have a minimum GPA of 2.50. Financial need will be considered. One award of \$600.00 will be awarded at the beginning of Spring 2011. Applications for this scholarship will be available from September 14 - October 21 in the Scholarship Office, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa Campus, and Kathleen Doyle Hall, Petaluma Campus. For more information, please call 527-4740.

Our congratulations to Vanessa Bertollo of Brazil and Kongping Han of China, recent winners of the Trussell & Judson Scholarships.

Transferring Students

Eighteen of our International students have transferred to other universities or colleges for the fall semester. Most students transferred to schools in the California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) systems:

CSU

San Francisco State University- 4
Sonoma State University - 1

UC

UC Berkeley- 2
UC Davis-1
UCLA -2
UC Santa Barbara-1
UC San Diego-1

OTHER

Other California Community Colleges: 5
Out of State Colleges: 2

Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview of the basic regulations for International students with F-1 visas. Failing to maintain your status could result in serious consequences and may affect your ability to remain in or return to the United States. 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 legal permission for any employment
- Limit enrollment in online classes to 3 units per semester.

Travel and Reentry

Every time you leave the U.S. you will need your passport and I-20 form to reenter. Your I-20 must be signed by us in International Admissions before you leave. Check your U.S. entry visa to be sure that it is still valid. If not, you will need to get a new visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate while you are abroad.

Employment Regulations

Working off campus is not permitted. However, F-1 students who are maintaining status may work part time **on campus** while classes are in session, up to 20 hours per week. For on campus jobs, you will need to obtain a US Social Security Number. If you are offered a job on campus, Student Employment and International Admissions will provide you with the required letters of permission.

Students who have earned a degree in the US may qualify for off-campus employment. This program allows you to work full time for one year in your field of study. Optional Practical Training requires prior authorization from US CIS.

For more information please contact Kim Hunt, International Student Advisor, Admissions & Records Office or by email at: khunt@santarosa.edu You can also learn more on the web at: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisfactsheet.htm>

Festivals and Events

Kathmandu Fall Festival

September 12 & 13

A festival celebrating Indian, Nepalese and Tibetan cultures with traditional food, music, dance and crafts. All proceeds benefit the Childrens Medical Aid Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting the work of a Nepalese mobile surgical team. Depot Park, 270 First Street, Sonoma.

www.kathmandufallfestival.org

Moon Festival

September 19 & 20

The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival, has been a popular tradition in Asia for over 1,000 years. It is traditionally a harvest festival, celebrating the end of the agricultural year. San Francisco's Autumn Moon Festival includes a dragon parade, arts and crafts, food bazaar and entertainment. Grant Avenue, Chinatown, San Francisco.

www.moonfestival.org

Glendi International Food Fair

September 19 & 20

Glendi is a celebration of many cultures. Specialty foods will be offered from the Middle East, Eritrea, Kenya, Russia, Greece, Romania, & other cultures. Live Balkan music and dance. Saint Seraphim Orthodox Church, 90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa.

www.glendi.net

Taste of Greece

September 25 – 27

Greek cultural festival including traditional food, music and dance.

Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco

www.annunciation.org/festival

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www.santarosa.edu/international/newsletter.html