

International Student Newsletter



Back to School

Welcome to the Fall 2011 semester at SRJC. We are welcoming 33 new International students to our college this fall. More than 21 different countries are represented, including Denmark, Eritrea, Fiji, France, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, UK, Vietnam, and more. We hope you enjoy your time here. Visit our website at: <http://www.santarosa.edu/app/international-students/student-testimonials/> to see what other International students have said about SRJC.

Rising Tuition Costs

SRJC and all California colleges and universities continue to suffer from state budget cuts due to current economic conditions. Tuition fees continue to rise for California community colleges, CSU and UC universities. The state may impose another fee increase for community college students in Spring or Summer 2012. We will keep you informed in the newsletter.

October/November Calendar

Oct 21	Ling Scholarship deadline
Oct 24	Midterm reports issued to students
Nov 6	Daylight Savings time change
Nov 11	Veteran's Day Holiday- no classes
Nov 23	Instructor PDA Day-no classes
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving Day Holidays
Nov 27	Last day to drop classes with "W"
Nov 28	Priority registration begins for Spring 2012

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 2011, must continue for Spring 2012, have a minimum GPA of 2.50, and be in good standing with SRJC and US CIS. Financial need will be considered. One award of \$500.00 will be awarded at the beginning of Spring 2012.

Applications for this scholarship will be available until October 21st in the Scholarship Office, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa Campus, and Kathleen Doyle Hall, Petaluma Campus. For more information, please call 527-4740.

Rules and Regulations

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview of the basic regulations for F-1 visa holders. Violations of status can 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 legal permission for any employment
- Limit enrollment in online classes to 3 units per semester.
- Report address changes to International Student Advisor within 10 days.
- Have your SEVIS I-20 signed by the International Student Advisor or Director each time you leave the United States.

For more information, contact Kim Hunt in the Admissions Office, Plover Hall. Learn more online at: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisfactsheet.htm>

Planning to Transfer?

If you are planning to transfer to a college in the California State University or University of California system, SRJC's Transfer Center can help. Most California universities begin accepting applications for Fall 2012 this month. The Transfer Center holds workshops to assist students with completing their applications. Representatives from many universities visit SRJC throughout the semester to speak with interested students. SRJC also has transfer guarantees (TAG) to several UC Campuses in California. Visit the website for more details at: http://www.santarosa.edu/instruction/prepare_for_transfer/transfer-guarantees/

Transfer 101 Workshops

Santa Rosa Campus:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1:30pm—3:00pm

3rd Floor, Bertolini Student Center (Transfer Center)

First Wednesday of every month, 5:30pm—7:00pm

1st floor, Bertolini Student Center, Room 4731

Petaluma Campus:

First Wednesday of every month, 5:00pm—6:30pm

Room PC 241

Second, third and fourth Wednesday of every month,

2:00pm—3:30pm

Room PC 229

University Representatives will visit SRJC this month from: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Diego, CSU East Bay, CSU Sacramento, and more. Visit the website for the complete list at: www.santarosa.edu/transfer It is very important that students planning to transfer to a four-year institution meet with a counselor to plan their lower division coursework. While many majors at SRJC are intended to align with lower division major preparation required by California public universities, specific lower-division major requirements vary among individual campuses. See a [counselor](#), visit the [Transfer Center](#), and check [Guides For Transfer in Specific Majors](#), and [ASSIST](#) to review transfer preparation guides for specific schools and majors. Visit the Transfer Center in Bertolini Hall, 3rd Floor, Santa Rosa campus. Contact them at 527-4874 or visit their website at: www.santarosa.edu/transfer.

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 completed your program before applying for this benefit. The employment 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 can begin looking for a job a few weeks before you expect to receive your work authorization card. Current processing time for Practical Training applications is about 3 months. **Any student wishing to begin working in January 2012 should apply by October 15th.** 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. Contact Kim Hunt in the Admissions Office for more information.

Diversity Immigrant Visa Program

Each year, the U.S. Department of State sponsors a "lottery" to award 50,000 permanent residence visas to persons meeting the eligibility requirements. Diversity visas provide an immigration opportunity for persons from countries that do not send large numbers of immigrants to the US. Applicants will be selected at random by computer. **The online registration period will be October 4 – November 5, 2011.** Visit the U.S. Department of State website at: www.dvlottery.state.gov for more information. Several of SRJC's international students have won the lottery in past years.

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www.santarosa.edu/international/newsletter.html