

# International Student Newsletter



## Local Events & Festivals

### Oktoberfest by the Bay

October 2-4

Celebration of German culture, including food, music and dance.

Pier 48 by AT&T Park, San Francisco.

[www.Oktoberfestbythebay.com](http://www.Oktoberfestbythebay.com)

### Annual Viking Fest and Bazaar

October 10, 10am to 3pm

Celebrating Nordic culture with traditional foods, crafts, bake sale and raffle prizes.

Sons of Norway Hall,

617 West 9th Street, Santa Rosa

[www.freyalodge.org](http://www.freyalodge.org)

### Italian Heritage Fair & Parade

October 11<sup>th</sup>

This festival has been celebrated for over 140 years! The parade route begins at Fisherman's Wharf and makes its way to North Beach. Colorful parade floats, live entertainment, arts and crafts and specialty foods will be enjoyed by over 400,000 visitors at this popular event.

Washington Square Park, San Francisco

[www.sfcolumbusday.org/parade](http://www.sfcolumbusday.org/parade)



## October Calendar

Oct 19 Second 8 week classes begin

Oct 19 Midterm grades available online

Oct 22 Ling Scholarship Deadline

Oct 31 Happy Halloween!

## Spring Academic Planning

It is time to start thinking about academic planning for Spring 2010. Meet with your counselor now to get the required "9-plus" approval. Students who currently have priority 2 or 3 can receive "Early Bird" priority by meeting with a counselor by October 20th. Early Bird allows students to register for classes 1-2 weeks earlier than their regular priority time. You can view your priority by visiting your Student Portal at: [www.santarosa.edu](http://www.santarosa.edu). At this time of year, most counseling appointments are drop-in only. Call the Counseling Office at 527-4451 to check on the availability of our International Student Counselors before your visit.

It is extremely important to take advantage of your registration priority, so you will get the classes you need for your program. Missing your priority will delay the completion of your program, and cause you to enroll in courses that are not appropriate. Too many of our international students are missing their priority times because they have not paid for their current semester fees. Remind your family or sponsor that your current semester fees must be paid before you can register for more classes. Spring priority registration begins on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The *Spring 2010 Schedule of Classes* should be available online at: [www.santarosa.edu](http://www.santarosa.edu) by October 26, 2009.

## It's Midterm Time Again

Midterms are given every semester, at the mid-point of the semester. It usually involves taking tests in each of your classes. Your midterm mark allows you to determine your progress so far in your classes. Not all instructors submit midterm grades, so you may not receive a mark for each class. Check your Student Portal to view your midterm grades. Speak with your counselor if you have any concerns about your classes.

## 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 program 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. 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 EAD card. Students are not required to attend school while on O.P.T.

Current processing times for Practical Training applications are 3-4 months. **Any student wishing to begin working in January 2010 should apply now.** 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.

## 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. **Entries must be submitted online from October 2 – November 30, 2009.** Visit the U.S. Department of State website at: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1322.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html) for more information. Several of SRJC's international students have won the lottery in past years.

## International Student Club Reminder

The SRJC International Student Club meets every Thursday afternoon at the Santa Rosa campus. The meeting is held in Maggini Hall, Room 2701, from 4-5pm. Please join us!

## Seasonal Influenza and H1N1 Flu Information

Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by [influenza viruses](#). It can cause mild to severe illness. Symptoms of the flu include sore throat, cough and fever. The best way to prevent seasonal flu is by getting a seasonal flu **vaccination** each year. This flu season could be worse. There is a new and very different flu virus spreading worldwide among people called H1N1 flu. This virus may cause more illness or more severe illness than usual. A vaccine for this flu is currently being developed and should be available in the US later this year. It is very important to stay healthy, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you become sick so you do not spread the virus to other people. SRJC students can get a vaccination for the seasonal flu at the Student Health Services Office for a \$10 fee. Please call them at: 527-4445 to make an appointment. Many countries have instituted health screening and quarantine procedures that may cause travel delays. We will provide more information as it becomes available. Visit these websites for the latest information:

[www.santarosa.edu/for\\_students/student-services/student-health-services/flu-information-center/](http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/student-services/student-health-services/flu-information-center/)  
[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)  
[www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health\\_1181.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1181.html)



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