Spring 2016 International Student Conference
January 14, 2016

Memorial Student Center (MSC), Bethancourt Ballroom (2nd Floor)
Coordinated by International Student Services

If at any time you have questions about the International Student Conference or International Student Services in general, please visit the ISS Informational Booth, located outside of the Bethancourt Ballroom on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Student Center.

Reminders:
1. Please fill out the survey at the end of each session that you attend.
2. Due to building safety rules, there is a maximum capacity for each session. Once all the chairs in the room are full, conference attendees will be asked to choose another session.

What if I do not get to attend a session at ISC?
You do not have to worry about if you missed one of the sessions because it was full or because you were in another session. Many of these topics are offered as workshops throughout the school year and most sessions will be offered again at the Spring 2016 International Student Conference as well.

8:00am – 8:30am

Registration & Breakfast Social
Freshly brewed coffee and breakfast refreshments will be served outside of the Bethancourt Ballroom until all has been consumed. Water will be available throughout the day to all attendees of the conference.

8:30am – 9:00am

Opening Remarks
Help us kick off the conference with International Student Services for a special welcome session. It will be full of fun and the first 300 participants will receive a 12th Man Towel! We will also have special guests to help welcome our new international students to Texas A&M University. Be early because you will not want to miss it!

9:00am – 9:45am

2300A – Leadership & Involvement: The World Beyond the Classroom
Participating in student activities and campus events helps you develop leadership skills, form great friendships, and enhance your competitive edge in the job search. Join us for this highly interactive session and learn more about how to get involved at Texas A&M!

2300B - An Introduction to University Libraries
Texas A&M University Libraries serve both the research and study needs of students and faculty across campus. There are six libraries located on the College Station campus. Please come and learn about the vast collections and free customized services offered to students at the Libraries. The presenter will provide an overview of services for graduate and undergraduate students and discuss the use of the online collections.

2300C - Answer to Impress: Surviving the U.S. Job Interview
Do you know what it takes to ace a job interview here in the U.S.? Come to this interactive session to learn tips and techniques on how to answer those tough interview questions. We will discuss topics including: how to prepare and research a company, how to negotiate salary and benefits, post interview follow-up, as well as how to address any future employment questions you may have. This session is sure to help you improve your interviewing technique!

2300D - Insider Knowledge: How to Pay for College
This session, brought to you by Money Wise Aggie, will discuss financial aid options available to international students. You will learn how to search for what is available, when and how to apply. Do not wait until it is too late; learn what financial assistance may be available to you now!

2300E - Navigating the Texas A&M University System Student Health Insurance Plan
This session will include a discussion and time for students to ask questions and become informed about health care and medical insurance in the U.S. and how this pertains to you as an international student at Texas A&M. International Student Services, Student Health Services and the system student health insurance provider will be available to answer questions regarding health insurance for all international students.

10:00am – 10:45am

2300A - Rules of Engagement: Social Media Etiquette & Optimization
Etiquette, it is not just for dinner parties or impressing your future in-laws; it is an important factor in working with your professors, getting into universities, networking, and getting a job. Optimizing your social media presence is also an important factor in today’s society. Educating yourself about social media can potentially open doors for job opportunities.

2300B - Love Knows No Boundaries: Dating in the U.S.
What do I do if I am interested in dating someone while I am here in the U.S.? What terminology should I use to talk about dating? What is a typical first date in the U.S.? These are common questions that can be difficult to know in a new country. This session introduces U.S. dating norms, including the various types of dating along with guidelines on acceptable behavior, and presents a variety of resources to help you navigate the dating scene here in the U.S.!

2300D - How to Prepare for & Navigate an Aggie Career Fair
Guess what? Career Fairs are a great way to network with company recruiters. Oh, and by the way…Spring 2016 Career Fairs begin the SECOND week of school!! YIKES! Do not stress, though. This session will
cover what to expect at the Career Fairs, how to prepare, and issues unique to international students to ensure that you feel confident and ready to impress recruiters.

2300E – What International Students Should Know About Taxes
Have you begun receiving tax forms and don’t know what to do with them? Did you know that ALL internationals students have tax forms they MUST file, even if they don’t have a job in the U.S.? Did you know that you should not use a local tax service in the Bryan/College Station area or the free tax software available online? If you have questions about filing your taxes, then this session is for you! Please come to this session to find out what resources are available and to better understand your responsibility, as an international student, with regard to U.S. taxes.

11:00am – 11:45am

2300A - Classroom Culture Shock: Academic Success in a New Environment
This session has been created to help international students understand and adjust to the culture of the U.S. classroom. Come to learn about unique aspects of U.S. higher education such as the academic structure, classroom environments students can expect, and behavior expectations among faculty and fellow students. This session is intended to help you maximize your experience at Texas A&M by providing resources and information on adjusting to the U.S. higher education system.

2300B - Creating Your Professional Network for the Job Search
Learn how to create connections to those professionals who can help you the most in your job search. Identify key resources available to you in the job search process, including the Aggie Network. After this session, students should be able to identify the resources available on campus and how to access them. Students should have a general idea of how to implement these resources in the job search process.

2300D - What You Need To Know About Thesis and Dissertation Services
This session will help you plan effectively for your thesis or dissertation. Attendees will receive an overview of essential requirements and guidelines for a thesis/dissertation, obtain information about services offered, and discover electronic resources available.

2300E - Families of International Students: Welcome to Aggieland!
This session is specifically for families (spouses and children) of international students. You will learn about the many community and campus resources that are available to your family, where and how you can make new friends, and other suggestions for an enriching experience in Aggieland. The session will include a brief overview of the immigration rules that apply to family members on F-2 or J-2 visas. While the session will be for an adult audience, please feel free to bring your children along.

12:15pm – 12:45pm
Pizza will be served from the Bethancourt Ballroom (2300C) starting at 11:45am. The following sessions will be available from 12:15pm to 12:45pm. We encourage you to bring your pizza to one of these sessions or to take the lunch hour to explore the Memorial Student Center (MSC).
Reminder: No food permitted in the MSC Flag Room on the 1st floor!

2300A - Academic Expectations in the American University: What You Need to Know About Texas A&M
Do you understand Texas A&M’s definition of ‘plagiarism’? What Texas A&M and the American education community consider academic misconduct is probably very different from what you have experienced in your educational career thus far. In this workshop, the Aggie Honor System Office will clearly define academic misconduct and provide tips to ensure you are avoiding mistakes that could cost you your academic career.

2300B - Student Counseling Service: Supporting Your Success
Come learn about the resources that the Texas A&M University Student Counseling Service (SCS) can offer you! Through counseling, our goal is to help international students achieve as much success as possible during your time in Aggieland. Join us as we discuss some common challenges faced by international students and learn about the academic, career, and personal counseling services available to you! The SCS also provides short-term counseling and crisis intervention services. SCS counseling staff incorporate into practice awareness, respect, and valuing of cultural differences.

2300D - Write a Scholarship Worthy Essay
Ever have difficulty writing an essay? Add to that the pressure of writing an essay in the hopes of receiving a scholarship, and if you are like most students, you will cringe at the thought. In this session, Scholarships & Financial Aid will share tips and tools that will make your scholarship application stand out.

2300E - Buying a Car
It is difficult to find an economical form of transportation that meets your needs and fits your budget. Learn about factors to take into consideration when planning to buy a vehicle. This session will be presented by Money Wise Aggie.

1:00pm – 1:45pm

2300A – I’m a Sponsored Student… What about Me?
This session is for those international sponsored students who are partially or entirely funded for their studies at Texas A&M University by their governments, national or multinational companies, the government of the United States, or other third party entities such as Fulbright. This session is for current and new sponsored international students to learn about the processes within International Student Services.

2300B - Career Connections: The Job Search & Hiring Process
What you should do now to maximize your chances of securing employment upon completion of your degree. Gain a greater understanding of the hiring process and how to navigate this process successfully. After this session, students should have a greater understanding of the steps necessary to fully utilize the resources available to them in the job search process and should have a clear understanding of the American hiring process.

2300D - Aggie Culture 101: Understanding Aggie Traditions & Terminology
Texas A&M is a unique campus grounded in tradition. During your time on-campus you will hear sayings like “Howdy!” & “Gig ‘Em Aggies.” What do they mean? In this session we will help you understand Aggie terminology and culture while becoming familiar with the traditions of Texas A&M, such as The 12th Man, Reveille, Aggie Muster, Silver Taps, Aggie Bonfire, and The Aggie Ring. Join us for this fun, informative, and interactive session on how to get connected with the Aggie Spirit during your time in Aggieland!

2300E – What it Takes to Apply for a Driver License or ID
Planning to drive while you are here in Texas? Officials from the Driver License Division within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will present detailed information, share helpful resources, and answer your questions regarding the process of obtaining a Texas driver license and/or identification (ID) card.

2:00pm – 2:45pm

2300A - Avoiding Plagiarism: Writing With Integrity
Have you ever written a paper for class and then worried that you had not synthesized your sources or cited your references correctly? This presentation will offer tips on writing with integrity, including best practices in organizing your sources, taking notes from sources, integrating source material into your text, and understanding how documentation functions within academic writing to further scholarly conversation.

2300B – Understanding Americans: Adapting to Life in the U.S.
Feeling like a fish out of water? This session will help you understand cultural differences and increase your competency skills to be successful in the U.S. environment.

2300D – Welcome to B/CS! Discovering Your New Community
Get to know all about Bryan and College Station! During this session, you can discover some annual events as well as attractions that are both on and off campus with which you can fill your free time. Come find out all that your new community has to offer you and your family!

2300E - U.S. Police: Fraud / Scam Prevention
Representatives from the Bryan, College Station, and University Police Departments will provide tips on how to identify frauds and scams, how to protect against identity theft, and provide general safety precautions.

2:45pm – 4:00pm

Resource Fair & Snack Social
Grab a snack and explore the Resource Fair for information and free giveaways from on and off campus resources! The Resource Fair tables are located in the Bethancourt Ballroom (2300C) and throughout the hallways on the 2nd floor of MSC outside the Stark Art Gallery! Be sure to mingle in both areas so you do not miss out!

Also, from 2:30-3:30 pm, come meet Ms. Reveille IX, the first lady of Aggieland in the MSC lobby outside of 2300C! Reveille will only be with us for a short time; therefore, ISS will be taking all photographs which can be accessed online at: www.facebook.com/TAMUISS
4:00pm – 5:00pm

2300A - Curricular Practical Training (CPT): What to Know Before You Apply
This session will explain the basics of CPT, a type of work authorization that allows F-1 students to participate in internships required by their course of study. The presentation will explain under what conditions a student can apply for CPT, and what the student must do in order to obtain CPT authorization and maintain it. Many helpful tips and suggestions will be provided.
This session is intended for: F-1 students

2300B - Optional Practical Training (OPT): How to Successfully File for OPT
This session will focus on the basics about OPT, show you how to request an OPT recommendation from ISS, and also how to successfully assemble your OPT application before mailing it to the U.S. government. We will discuss the requirements for OPT and offer many helpful tips and suggestions.
This session is intended for: F-1 students

2300D - Academic Training: What to Know Before You Apply
This session will focus on the basics about Academic Training for J-1 students and show you what is required in order to obtain, and maintain, Academic Training authorization. Many helpful tips and suggestions will be provided.
This session is intended for: J-1 students

2300E - Guide to On-Campus Employment for F-1 & J-1 students
On-campus jobs are a great way to help pay for your education and build your resume for the U.S. workforce. This session will give an overview of how to find on-campus jobs and explain the rules for on-campus employment that are specific to your F-1 or J-1 student visa status. We will also discuss how to obtain a Social Security Number and why you need a Glacier Account.

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