Spring 2014 International Student Conference
January 9, 2014
Session Descriptions
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.

8:00am – 8:30am

2300C Coffee Social
Coffee and refreshments will be served outside of the Bethancourt Ballroom until all has been consumed.

8:30am – 9:00am

2300C Opening Remarks
Join Texas A&M University Vice President of Student Affairs, General Joseph Weber, International Student Services Staff, and the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Yell Leaders for a special welcome session. You won’t want to miss it!

9:00am – 9:45am

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

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. The Libraries offer collections with over 4 million books and over 1 million ebooks. Study space and additional research help can be found in any of the libraries located across 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, demonstrate how to find information for all majors, and discuss the use of the vast online and digital collections. Students are welcome to bring a laptop.

2300C 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.
NEW SESSION: 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!

NEW SESSION: 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.

10:00am – 10:45am

NEW SESSION: Rules of Engagement: Social Media Etiquette and Optimization
Etiquette, it's 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 with educating yourself as well as opening potential doors for opportunity.

NEW SESSION: Love Knows No Boundaries: Dating in the U.S.
What do I do if I am interested in dating someone while I’m 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.!

NEW SESSION: Finish What You Started: How to Plan Your Last Semester
This session is highly recommended for F-1 and J-1 students planning to graduate within the next year. Topics addressed will include how to enroll less than full-time during your graduating semester, how to apply for post-completion work authorization, your obligations with ISS after graduation, and what to do if you are unable to graduate as expected.

This session is intended for: F-1 and J-1 students preparing to graduate

NEW SESSION: I’m a Sponsored Student… What about Me?
International sponsored students are those students who will be partially or entirely supported during their academic program for the cost of their tuition, fees, and/or living expenses by their governments, national or multinational companies, the government of the United States, or other third party entities such as Fulbright. This session will introduce you to the Sponsored Student Programs office and will provide you with important information about maintaining your nonimmigrant status if your documents are issued by your sponsor, the health insurance waiver process, employment on campus, taxes, and third party billing. We will also discuss campus resources and your academic success and how to get the information and help you may need as a sponsored student. There will be time available for questions and answers.

This session is required for: All Sponsored Students
11:00am – 11:45am

2300A **Student Legal Services: Knowing Your Legal Rights**
The purpose of the Student Legal Services office is to help and advise students with their legal problems and inform students of their legal rights and responsibilities. This session will discuss legal services provided to students, including issues students encounter with landlords, roommates, traffic accidents, consumer disputes, criminal charges and more!

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 **Thesis Preparation and Clearance: What You Need to Know**
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).

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**Want to Win a Brand New Digital Camera?**

There are 3 Ways to Win:

1. Post a picture of yourself and/or friends at ISC on the ISS Facebook Page or the Spring 2014 International Student Conference Facebook Event

2. Tweet a picture of yourself and/or friends at ISC with the hashtag #TAMUISC

3. Post a picture of yourself and/or friends at ISC on Instagram with the hashtag #TAMUISC

**OR DO ALL THREE!!**

The International Student Services judges will choose a winner from each category at noon on Monday, January 13, 2014.
12:00pm – 12:30pm

Pizza will be served from the Bethancourt Ballroom (2300C) starting at 11:45am. The following sessions will be available from 12:00pm to 12:30pm. 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  **I Didn’t Know That Was Cheating! Avoiding Academic Misconduct**
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 Services: Supporting Your Success**
What is counseling? Why seek counseling? What are the common challenges faced by international students? What are some of the triggers that could lead to potential crisis? What are the signs of depression? When should you seek counseling or refer a friend for counseling? Come learn about the academic, career, and personal counseling services provided by the Student Counseling Services.

2300D  **What Can the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Do for Me?**
All graduate students are encouraged to attend this session to learn about the services provided by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS). In addition, this session will help prepare you to meet OGAPS requirements throughout your academic program.

2300E  **U.S. Police: Keeping You Safe**
Representatives from the Bryan, College Station, and University Police Departments will offer an interactive discussion about the concept of “community policing” and their role in serving you as an international student at Texas A&M. Important rules and regulations as well as your rights will be discussed. Tips on protecting yourself and your identity will be offered. Giveaways will be included in this session.

12:45pm – 1:30pm

2300A  **Buying a Car and Getting a Driver’s License**
Do you have any idea how to buy a car? Think that’s complicated…try getting your driver’s license! In this session you will learn the process of purchasing a car and what is required in order to obtain a Texas driver’s license, which is a must if you plan to purchase a car!

2300B  **Career Connections: The Job Search and 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.
**New to Bryan/College Station: How to Navigate Your Community**

Coming to a new city can be difficult. Knowing how the transportation system works and where to shop can be very helpful for newcomers. Though the Bryan/College Station area may seem small, these towns have a lot to offer! This fun and interactive presentation will help you learn about public transportation, places to shop for a variety of food selections, and other tips on navigating the area. This presentation is great if you are new to B/CS!

**Aggie Spirit 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!

**1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Getting Involved in Aggieland: 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. You will get an opportunity to meet with student leaders from campus organizations, and learn more about how to get involved at Texas A&M!

**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.

**Community and On-Campus Events: Filling Up Your Free Time**

Want to know about local events and attractions? During this session, we will share upcoming events and festivals for you and your family to enjoy in the Bryan/College Station Community. Come and find out what these communities have to offer and what you won’t want to miss this year!

**NEW SESSION: 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; most students cringe at the thought. Lucky for you the Texas A&M Writing Center is here to help! In this session the Writing Center will share tips and tools that will make your scholarship application stand out.
2:30pm – 3:30pm

Resource Fair and Snack Social
Grab a snack and explore the Resource Fair, located in the Bethancourt Ballroom (2300C) and throughout the hallways on the 2nd floor of MSC!

Premiere Sponsor
Campus View

Student Organizations
Aggie Baptist Student Ministry
Bridges International
Graduate Student Council
International Student Association
International Student Mentor Association

Additional Departments and Organizations
Adult, Graduate, and Off-Campus Student Services
Academic Health Plans
Association of Former Students
BCS Convention and Visitors Bureau
College Station Police Department
Department of Residence Life
Disability Services
Discovery Program
Emergency Care Team
International Graduate Student Connection
Map and GIS Library
Memorial Student Center
Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
Rec Sports
Scholarships and Financial Aid
Student Activities
Student Counseling Services
Student Employment Office
Student Health Services
Student Legal Services
TAMU Career Center
TAMU EMS
TAMU Information Technology
TAMU Libraries
TAMU Office of Sustainability
TAMU Police Department
Texas Department of Public Safety
University Writing Center

Meet Ms. Reveille VIII, the first lady of Aggieland, at the Resource Fair!
3:30pm – 4:15pm

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 interactive session will focus on the basics about OPT and 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. Students who apply for OPT are required to attend an in-person workshop or complete the online OPT workshop on ISS website. Attending this workshop will fulfill this necessary step in applying for the recommendation from ISS.

*This session is intended for: F-1 students*

2300D  **Academic Training: What to Know Before You Apply**
This interactive 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  **Jump Start For Success: Getting a Job, Getting Involved On-Campus**
Find out what every international student needs to know regarding finding a job on campus. Learn what requirements you have for your visa type. Find out more information about obtaining a social security number. Are you planning on doing an internship or applying for employment authorization after graduation? Find out what you could be doing now with your on-campus job to help you in your future endeavors.
4:30pm – 5:15pm

2300A  **Not F-1 or J-1? Discovering Resources for You**
Not on an F-1 or J-1 visa? Are you getting ready to turn 21 and age out of your current visa status? Are you interested in working on campus? If you fit any visa category other than F-1 or J-1, this session is for you! ISS can assist in advising you on issues such as changing your status and much more. Come to learn what ISS can do for you!

*This session is intended for: Students who are neither F-1 nor J-1*

2300B  **Help! I am an F-1 Student and I Still Have Questions**
Do you still have questions that were not answered at ISC? If so, there will be F-1 Advisors available for walk-in advising during this informal session. We will also provide a brief review of the regulations and benefits that affect F-1 students.

*This session is intended for F-1 students*

2300D  **Help! I am a J-1 Student and I Still Have Questions**
Do you still have questions that were not answered at ISC? If so, there will be J-1 Advisors available for walk-in advising during this informal session. We will also provide a brief review of the regulations and benefits that affect J-1 students.

*This session is intended for J-1 students*

2300E  **36 Month Provision/Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals**
This conference session is specifically for 36 Month Provision students and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients/applicants. The session will include a brief overview of 36 month provision and DACA and what they mean for you while you are a student at Texas A&M University. The rest of the session will be available for questions and answers.

*This session is intended for: students not on F-1 or J-1 visa categories*

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**ISC SPONSORS: THANKS AND GIG’EM!**

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