



# International Student Services Newsletter

Office of International Programs

Block 2, Volume II

October 10, 2017

## Applications Now Being Accepted for the FY2019 Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery Program

Are you interested in seeking lawful permanent resident status in the United States? Then the Diversity Visa Lottery might be an opportunity for you!

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered annually by the U.S. Department of State and it provides a pathway to U.S. permanent resident status (aka "green card" status) for a class of "diversity immigrants," from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. For fiscal year 2019, 50,000 diversity visas (DVs) will be available.



### HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE LOTTERY?

The State Department will begin accepting online registrations for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Diversity Visa (DV) lottery starting Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) Foreign nationals who wish to enter the lottery have until Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) to file online. See <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/instructions/html> for further information.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE LOTTERY?

The DV lottery is open to natives of countries that have historically low rates of immigration to the United States. Entrants must have a high school education (or equivalent) or at least two years of qualifying work experience. Individuals from countries with high rates of U.S. immigration are NOT eligible to register. This year, those born in the following countries are ineligible:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Canada
- China (mainland-born)
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Haiti
- India
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- South Korea
- United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories
- Vietnam

People born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan can participate.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

After you submit a complete Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (E-DV Entry Form or DS-5501), online at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov), you will see a confirmation screen containing your name and a unique confirmation number. Print this confirmation screen for your records.

You may check the status of your DV-2018 entry through the Entrant Status Check on the E-DV website at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) starting May 2, 2018, until September 30, 2019. Keep your confirmation number until at least September 30, 2019. If your entry is not selected, you will not be notified. If your E-DV Entry Form is selected for processing, you will be eligible to submit your green card application during the 2019 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2018.



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### Daylight Savings Time Ends November 5th!

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night, November 4th, because Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th, at 2:00am.





## Practical Training (OPT & CPT) Workshops

Have you heard these two terms used by other international students since you've been on campus? Are you planning to do an internship while you are a student at Colorado College? Did you know that you have to have authorization to do so?

International students have the option of working within the United States by engaging in practical training either during their program or after it ends. Practical training can provide valuable work experience by sharpening and adding to the skills you are learning in school. There are two types of practical training available for F-1 students: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT).

The Practical Training Workshops will discuss the requirements, how to request authorization, and other information related to CPT and OPT. All workshops will take place in the Worner Campus Center Room 211 on the first Friday of the block from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm. **Dates: 10/27 and 12/1.** Bring your lunch and join us!



## The Writing Center is Hiring!

Are you a confident writer? Are you, perhaps, interested in pursuing a job in teaching? Do you enjoy helping others with their ideas and their writing? Then the Ruth Barton Writing Center may be your professional home on campus. The Writing Center is currently accepting applications for the 2018 Consultant Training courses and subsequent hiring in the Writing Center. You can access the application online [https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/colketcenter/writing-center/Become\\_a\\_Writing\\_Tutor.html](https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/colketcenter/writing-center/Become_a_Writing_Tutor.html) or by stopping by the Colket Center for Academic Excellence desk on the second floor of Tutt Library.

The Writing Center is looking for students who can:

- Communicate well and listen actively
- Analyze texts
- Demonstrate a familiarity with writing across the curriculum
- Explain basic rules of standard written English

If you are interested, please fill out an application or stop by to chat with Tracy Santa or Kat Bell in Tutt Library about this opportunity! The 2018 application cycle closes on **Wednesday, October 18.**



## Reminders for December 2017 Graduates



Graduating in December 2017? Be aware of what options you have as an F-1 student after you complete your studies at CC!

If you will be **COMPLETING** your degree at CC by the end of the Fall 2017 semester, **CONGRATULATIONS!**

As you finish up, please remember:

- If you are an F-1 student, you must:
  - ⇒ depart the United States; OR
  - ⇒ request a transfer to another school; OR
  - ⇒ apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT); OR
  - ⇒ apply for a change of your nonimmigrant status

**within 60 days** of your program completion date\*.
- OPT applications and change of status applications must be received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) no later than 60 days after your program completion date. For more information about how to apply for OPT or how to apply for a change of nonimmigrant status, schedule an advising appointment with Lisa Kosiewicz Doran, International Student Specialist, or Donna Beziou, International Student & Scholar Assistant, by calling (719) 227-8282 or emailing us at [ISS@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:ISS@ColoradoCollege.edu).
- Your on-campus employment authorization expires as of your program completion date\*. In order to continue working on-campus at CC, you would have to be authorized for OPT and your job would have to be directly related to your field of study (major) at CC.

\*"Program completion date" = the program end date indicated on your current Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status) OR the end date of your final semester at CC OR the date on which you complete all requirements for graduation at CC as a registered student, including the filing of a thesis, whichever is **EARLIEST**.



## OIP Office Update: Changes in International Student Services Request Processing Times

Although the official Fall census date (October 15) has not yet arrived, it is estimated that the total number of international students and exchange visitors enrolled at CC during Fall 2017 will exceed 200 for the first time in the college's history. In addition to supporting CC's currently enrolled international students and scholars, the Office of International Programs also provides immigration advising and visa document production services for the 70+ new international students and exchange visitors who accept an offer of admission from CC for the following academic year. Finally, under current U.S. immigration regulations, the Office of International Programs is also responsible for providing 12-36 months of immigration advising services and support after graduation from CC to the I5-I8 F-1 nonimmigrant students each year who apply and are approved for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) employment authorization or who receive approval for the 24-month STEM OPT extension.



This growth in the number of international students and exchange visitors that our office serves has resulted in an increase in the number of international student services requests that our office receives as well. Therefore, given that we have only one full-time staff position and one part-time staff position to serve all international student and exchange visitors before, during, and after their program of study at CC, the Office of International Programs is implementing the following policies in order to more efficiently respond to international student services requests and address the demand for advising services in an effective and timely manner:

**International Student Advising**

- **The processing time for all COMPLETE international student services requests submitted to the Office of International Programs is now 1-2 business days**, so please plan accordingly. Incomplete international student services requests will not be accepted for processing.
- Advising services are available on a drop-in basis only during the designated drop-in advising times, which are 1:30-4:00pm, Monday-Friday. Keep in mind that the drop-in advising services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis and are intended for simple tasks, e.g. submission of an international student services request, or quick questions. If your question or request is more complex, i.e. it may take more than 10 minutes to resolve, then you will be asked by the advisor-on-duty to schedule an individual advising appointment (generally 30 minutes long) during office hours.

Drop-in or Appointment? Sample Topics:	
Drop-in	Appointment
Travel signature request	Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT) questions
SEVIS transfer out request	24-month STEM OPT extension questions
Questions about on-campus employment	Leave of absence
Social Security Number eligibility verification letter request	Reduced course load
Questions about obtaining a Colorado driver's license/ID card	Program extension
General Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20/Form DS-2019) and visa questions	Change of status

## Halloween Is Almost Here!

Halloween is coming at the end of the month on October 31st! To learn more about Halloween traditions in the United States, check out the link below:

[http://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource\\_files/halloween.pdf](http://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/halloween.pdf)

Going to a Halloween costume party? There are many places to get a Halloween costume, but a good place to start is one of the many [Spirit Halloween stores](#) in Colorado Springs. Also, many people in the U.S. choose to create their own Halloween costumes using clothing and other accessories purchased at used clothing stores, such as [Goodwill](#) or [Arc Thrift Stores](#).





## Office of International Programs

Office of International Programs  
14 E. Cache La Poudre St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3294  
USA

Phone: 719-227-8282  
Fax: 719-227-8283  
E-mail: [iss@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:iss@coloradocollege.edu)

Campus Location:  
Armstrong 2nd Floor



The Office of International Programs (OIP) serves students who study off-campus (domestically and internationally), incoming international students, faculty who lead students on off-campus programs, and international faculty who require immigration services.

OIP provides comprehensive services for degree-seeking international students and exchange students, including individualized immigration advising, specialized workshops, and orientation programs.

For more information, contact Lisa Kosiewicz Doran, International Student Specialist at [iss@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:iss@coloradocollege.edu).

### We're on the Web!

<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/international/international-students/>

## October Birthdays

The Office of International Programs would like to wish a very happy birthday to all the international students who are celebrating a birthday in October!

**Tianyi Bai**

**Ruoxin Dong**

**Pan Gu**

**Isabel Gutierrez Papacostas**

**Chang (Fiona) Han**

**Qian (Alice) Huang**

**Anusha Khanal**

**Young Jae (Alyssa) Kim**

**Christie Ma**

**Jeronimo Miranda**

**Cecelia Mweka**



**Eyner Roman Lopez**

**Tianzheng (Shane) Tu**

**Xinyue Wang**

**Qizhen Yang**

**Shubo Yang**

**Kelly Yue**

**Peiheng Zhang**

**Tianran Zhang**

**Aiyu Zheng**

**Jiexin (Zoe) Zhou**