



International Student Services Newsletter

Office of International Programs

Block 6, Volume VI

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U.S. Tax Filing Requirements



All F and J international students and scholars who were present in the U.S. during any portion of the past calendar year **are required to file** tax forms with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), **even if you did not earn any money in the U.S. during 2016**. The type of forms you need to submit to the IRS depends on your U.S. tax-filing status (nonresident or resident) for 2016. Note: your U.S. tax-filing status may be different from your U.S. immigration status. For example, it is possible that a person, who is a non-U.S. resident for immigration purposes, be classified as a resident alien for tax purposes. For more information, see: [IRS Publication 519 "U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens"](#).

An individual is considered to be a nonresident alien for tax purposes if they do not meet the "substantial presence test" or are considered to be an "exempt individual". If you have been in the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student for more than 5 calendar years, or as a J-1 scholar for more than 2 of the 6 preceding years, then it's possible that your U.S. tax status, as determined by the GLACIER Tax Prep software offered by the college, is resident alien, which means that you cannot use the GLACIER Tax Prep software to prepare your U.S. federal tax forms, since GLACIER Tax Prep prepares only nonresident alien tax forms. The CC Tax and Compliance Manager, Sarah Hintz (Sarah.Hintz@ColoradoCollege.edu) can assist foreign nationals in determining their U.S. tax status.

If you are in nonresident alien tax filing status for 2016, you need to do the following:

IF YOU RECEIVED NO U.S. SOURCE INCOME in 2016 (except bank interest), you need only complete IRS information Form 8843 and submit it to the IRS. You must send your Form 8843 to the IRS by **June 15th, 2017** (even if you leave the U.S. before that date).

IF YOU RECEIVED U.S. SOURCE INCOME IN 2016 (wages, grants, scholarships, etc.) from a U.S. employer, institution or foundation, then you must file Form 1040NR-EZ or Form 1040NR in addition to Form 8843. You must send your Form 1040NR-EZ or Form 1040NR and Form 8843 to the IRS by **April 18th, 2017** (even if you leave the U.S. before that date).

What happens if I don't file tax documents with the IRS?

Filing tax documents each year is an important part of maintaining your immigration status and is a federal requirement for international visitors and their dependents. Not filing your required tax forms could lead to penalties, such as fines, or even negatively impact your immigration status.

If you apply for future immigration benefits, such as H-1B, Permanent Residency, or other statuses, you will likely be asked to provide copies of tax filings for all previous years you were in the U.S. If you forgot or didn't file in previous years when you should have, the IRS recommends that you file now for previous years.

Spring Tax Workshops: Register Now!

The Office of International Programs and Sarah Hintz, the Tax and Compliance Manager, will be offering four Tax Workshops this spring to assist international students and scholars in preparing their required U.S. federal form(s) using the GLACIER Tax Prep software system. The workshops will also provide instructions on how to complete a Colorado state income tax form, if applicable. All workshops begin at the assigned time and **drop-ins are not allowed**. You **must pre-register** for a workshop and plan to stay the entire time to complete your tax returns. [Register now](#) for one of the upcoming Tax Workshops:

- **Friday, March 3rd: 1:00—3:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, March 28th: 1:30—3:30 PM**
- **Wednesday, March 8th: 3:30—5:30 PM**
- **Tuesday, April 11th: 3:30—5:30 PM**

All tax workshops will be held in Keck Computer Lab (Armstrong 308)

Inside this issue:

U.S. Tax Filing Requirements	1
Spring Tax Workshops	1
Spring Break Housing Requests	2
Spring Break Travel Reminders	2
Same-Day Service Travel Signature Day	2
St. Patrick's Day in the U.S.	2
CPT Workshop for Summer Internships	3
Executive Order Update	3
Daylight Savings Time Begins	4
March Birthdays	4

Documents Needed for F-1 Travel

- Valid passport
- Valid U.S. visa stamp (Canadians are exempt)
- Valid Form I-20, signed for travel on Page 2 within the last 6 months
- Evidence of financial funding (bring a copy of whatever funding is mentioned on your Form I-20: bank statement (s)/sponsorship letter(s), CC Financial Aid letter, etc.)
- Proof of enrollment (print out of course schedule or transcript.)



Spring Break Housing: Requests Due March 10th

The CC residence halls will close at noon on March 16th, 2017, for Spring Break and re-open at 8:00 AM on March 26th. Students and exchange visitors who are temporarily in the U.S. with a nonimmigrant visa and who are unable to make alternative accommodation plans for Spring Break, e.g. staying with friends or relatives, going on a trip, etc., however, may request special permission to stay in their current residence hall room during Spring Break (at no extra cost), as long as they are continuing their studies on the CC campus in Block 7. Please **be advised that there will be limited campus services available during Spring Break**, so if your request for Spring Break housing is approved, you should be prepared to make your own arrangements for meals, since the campus dining facilities may be closed.

If you would like to request on-campus housing for ANY part of the Spring Break period, you must complete the online [Spring Break Housing Agreement Form](#) and submit it **by 3:00pm on Friday, March 10th**. Office of Residential Life and Campus Activities approval of your Spring Break housing request is required prior to staying and is not guaranteed. **If your Spring Break on-campus housing request is approved, you will be notified via your CC email address after the form due date.** Therefore, when completing the Spring Break Housing Agreement form, please make sure that you have entered your CC email address correctly.

Note: Anyone requesting to remain on-campus for any part of the Spring Break period, including residents of the Western Ridge Apartments, Senior Cottages, Synergy House, and Fraternities, must complete a Spring Break Housing Agreement Form and submit it to the Office of Residential Life and Housing by the 3:00pm Friday, March 10th deadline.

Special instructions for students who will be studying off-campus during Blocks 7 & 8: If you currently live on-campus, but will be studying abroad during Blocks 7 & 8, please send an email message to your Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) to schedule the date and time for you to complete your residence hall room check-out process by noon on Thursday, March 16th. Also, please fill out the [Spring Break Housing Agreement Form](#) and speak with your RLC to request any additional time you may need in your room over Spring Break prior to your departure for your off-campus program.

Spring Break Travel Reminders

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

If you are planning to travel abroad during Spring Break, now is the right time to make sure you are prepared, from an immigration perspective, to depart and re-enter the United States. Understanding your immigration obligations can help minimize delays on re-entry.

Before you travel abroad this Spring Break, make sure to do the following:

- Check your passport validity.
- Check your visa to make sure it is valid for re-entry to the United States.
- Check to make sure that your Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20/Form DS-2019) has been endorsed for travel.

TRAVELING WITHIN THE U.S.

If you will be traveling within the U.S., driving on major highways, riding on buses, trains, or planes, you should carry with you your passport, your current I-94 arrival record, and your current Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20/Form DS-2019).

Need a New Travel Signature?

Check the most recent travel endorsement signature on Page 2 of your current Form I-20/Page 1 of your current Form DS-2019—if the signature will be more than 6 months old by the time you plan to apply for re-entry to the U.S. after a trip abroad, you are advised to stop by the Office of International Programs to request a new travel endorsement signature **before** departing the U.S. **OIP will be offering a “Same-Day Service Travel Signature Day” on Monday, March 13th from 9:00 AM—4:00 PM.** Stop by our offices in Armstrong Hall (right above the Office of the Registrar), anytime between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Monday, March 13th to request a new travel signature and your request will be processed the same day.

St. Patrick's Day in the United States

The United States celebrates St. Patrick's Day on March 17 of each year. St. Patrick's Day is not a federal holiday in the U.S. so schools, businesses and organizations are open as usual and public transport systems run on their regular schedules. St. Patrick's Day traditions in the U.S. include wearing at least one small green item (or else you might get pinched!), symbols such as a shamrock or leprechaun, eating corned beef and cabbage, and parades that celebrate Irish-American culture and communities in the U.S.

For more information about the St. Patrick's Day holiday in the U.S., see: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/st-patrick-day>.





Off-Campus Employment Authorization for Summer Internships

Thinking of doing an unpaid or paid off-campus internship in the U.S. this summer? If you're an F-1 or J-1 student, then please note that you must have the appropriate U.S. employment authorization in order to engage in this type of training/employment activity. For F-1 students, Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is the most common type of U.S. employment authorization sought for participating in an off-campus internship. Come learn more about CPT, including the eligibility requirements and the process for requesting CPT authorization at CC, by attending the upcoming CPT Workshop on Tuesday, April 4th.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
Workshop
Tuesday, April 4th
3:30—5:00 PM
Armstrong Board Room**

Presidential Executive Order Update

OIP is closely monitoring immigration-related news coming out of the White House and the impact changes may have on our international student community at CC. The following is a summary of important updates that have occurred since the implementation of the Executive Order (EO) on January 29, 2017.

February 3, 2017

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington in Seattle granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) that temporarily prohibits the Federal government from enforcing Section 3(c) of Executive Order 13769, the provision that established the 90-day ban on entry of "immigrants and nonimmigrants" from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The TRO "is granted on a nationwide basis," according to the order. The suit was brought by the State of Washington and was later joined by the State of Minnesota.

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has temporarily lifted its suspension of visa processing, and reversed its directive that revoked the visas of individuals subject to the Section 3(c) entry ban. DOS posted an updated notice on the travel.state.gov website.

The Department of State had also, under the Executive Order, provisionally revoked all valid visas of nationals of those seven countries. That provisional revocation is now lifted, and those visas are now valid for travel to the United States, if the holder is otherwise eligible. Individuals whose visas are expired, or were physically cancelled, must apply for a new visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, absent a Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) decision to grant parole or waive the visa requirement at the port of entry.

February 4, 2017

The Trump administration appealed the District Court's temporary restraining order (TRO) to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and asked the Court of Appeals for an emergency stay of the Circuit Court's TRO. The administration also asked the appeals court to grant an immediate administrative stay of the Circuit Court's TRO while the court considers the appeal and emergency stay petition.

The Court of Appeals denied the administration's request for an immediate administrative stay of the TRO, but proceeded to consider its request for an emergency stay of the order.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has resumed inspection of travelers "in accordance with standard policy and procedure." CBP updated its [Executive Order FAQs](#). CBP has contacted airlines to inform them that during the validity of the TRO, airlines can board individuals who would otherwise be subject to the Executive Order's Section 3(c) entry ban. Individual travelers should contact their airline directly to inquire about any adjustment to the airline's boarding policy as a result of the TRO.

February 9, 2017

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied the U.S. government's attempt to reinstate the travel ban. This means there is currently no ban on travel, regardless of country of citizenship. The White House has expressed plans to continue fighting this legal decision (the next step would be taking the case to the U.S. Supreme Court), or to issue a revised executive order. But for now, the U.S. government is not allowed to enforce the travel ban/restrictions outlined in the January 27 Executive Order.

What does this mean for me?

Anyone who is currently in the U.S. in lawful status, including individuals from the seven countries indicated in the EO of 1/27/2017, can remain in the U.S. for as long as their status is valid. If you are remaining in the U.S. and you are maintaining your lawful status, there is nothing new you have to do. For those departing the U.S. with the intention to re-enter relatively soon (after a conference, a family vacation, a leave of absence, etc.), we recommend you take caution and plan more extensively than you would have before the Executive Order (EO). If you believe that your country of birth, country of citizenship, or recent travel destinations may cause particularly close scrutiny on the part of immigration officials, carefully consider if travel is necessary. If you travel, be prepared for delays at all stages of the process. If you are applying for a new visa, you may find that lead-times for visa interviews have lengthened, that there is a greater probability of administrative processing (background checks) before a visa will be issued, and that administrative processing may take longer. If you have connecting flights within the U.S., schedule sufficient time between flights to accommodate possible delays, such as having to pass through secondary inspection at a port of entry.

As always, OIP staff is available as a resource to our international student community. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to an OIP advisor or come to our office during drop-in hours.



Office of International Programs

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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.

We're on the Web!

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

Daylight Savings Time Begins: Sunday, March 12th

Daylight Savings Time in the U.S. begins on Sunday, March 12th, at 2:00 AM, so don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour as you go to bed on Saturday night, March 11th!

For more information about Daylight Savings Time and its history in the U.S. see: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/daylight_time.php



March Birthdays

The Office of International Programs would like to wish a very happy birthday to all the international students who will be celebrating their birthday in March!

Alberta Brown

Quinten Eggink

Jake Emilio

Zizhen (Trillian) Fan

Xingyi Li

Toan Luong

Ruochen (Melody) Mao

Maitreyi (Maits) Menon



Lee-Ann (Palesa) Mokoena

Ana Gabriela Pareja Alfaro

Emilio Rodriguez

Saria Sato Bajracharya

Haonan (Louie) Shi

Yu (Caroline) Wu

Haotian Xu

Mostafa Zaki-Taha