Dear Students:

As we start the fall 2010 semester, we hope everyone has an enjoyable and successful experience. Welcome back all returning students and we want to extend a special welcome to the new DVC International Students. Please remember to come to visit us at the ISAS office if you have any questions or concerns.

Congratulations to the 356 students who transferred to four year universities for the fall 2010 term. We will miss them but we are very happy they are moving forward with their academic goals. This was an exceptional year for transfers. Over 88 students transferred to UCB.
REMINDERS FROM THE ISAS OFFICE

International Student Medical Insurance – All international students will receive a new medical insurance card to use for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters from Wells Fargo of California Insurance Services, Inc. Let Gena Gruber know if you have not received your medical insurance card by October 12th, and she will contact the insurance company to request a card to be sent to your home. Please make sure that your address is correct by checking in Web Advisor.

To get more information on your medical coverage, you can pick up the 2010/2011 medical insurance brochure at the International Students Admissions and Services Office (ISAS) room 210 of the Student Services building. See http://www.dvc.edu/international/resources/insurance.htm for contact information and medical care provider information.

The medical coverage begins 8/10/10 and ends 1/7/11 and is continuous for students who will have the insurance in the spring. All DVC F-1 students will be charged the $307 when they register for the fall 2010 semester. This medical insurance is mandatory for all DVC F-1 students. NO INSURANCE WAIVERS ACCEPTED!

Note: Students who have not paid the mandatory insurance medical fee of $307 by the deadline (09/09/10) will be dropped from their classes.

Address Changes or Corrections

Please remember to inform the ISAS office of any address changes or corrections so we can make the change in SEVIS and the school database. Also make sure that we have your latest telephone number and email. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations require that students inform the DSO within 10 days of a change of address.

NOTE: Check your address in Web Advisor to make sure your address is correct. If it is not correct go to the International Students Admissions Office to put in an address correction or use the Student Request Form available online http://www2.dvc.edu/isas/Forms/Student_request.asp.

International Students Request Form
NOW ONLINE – International students can submit requests online without having to come into the ISAS office. Although you still need to drop off your I-20 if you wish to have it signed for travel and re-entry some of the things you can do online include:
Address changes:
Letter requests: full-time status, bank letters, military letters, etc. Change of major on your I-20
The link is the same as above: http://www2.dvc.edu/isas/Forms/Student_request.asp
You need to maintain your **full-time status** at all times. You must talk to a DSO before dropping to fewer than 12 units. Your GPA should not go below 2.0.

You must report a change of address within 10 days. The ISAS office will change your address for you.

You must attend the college on the I-20 that you used to enter the country.

You MUST report to the school international office within 15 days of your arrival to the school. At DVC this is done through the F-1 check-in sessions.

Transfer in students need to pick up their I-20s from the DVC ISAS office within 15 days of their arrival.

If you drop out of school or quit school you MUST inform the DSO so that your SEVIS I-20 can be properly handled. Once you drop your classes you will need to leave the U.S. immediately (within 15 days).

You must inform the DVC DSO (Gena or Gloria) of the school you will transfer to AND present an admissions letter from that school before we will release your SEVIS I-20 record to that school. You will only be able to get an I-20 from the new school after we release the SEVIS record.

Only one on-line class can count towards the required 12 units to maintain full-time status. Students may NOT take all evening classes.*These rules are being waived by the Department of Homeland Security for the fall 2010 semester due to the budget constraints in California.

Students who travel outside of the U.S. must have the third page of their I-20 signed by a DSO (Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber) for RE-ENTRY to the US.

Students must sign up for their classes no later than **30 days after the close of course registration each semester.** SEVIS requires that all students be registered for the current semester in SEVIS no later than 30 days after the close of course registration each semester.

**Travel Outside of the USA**

If you wish to travel outside the U.S. and you are returning to DVC you **must have** the DSO (Gloria or Gena) sign on page 3 of your current I-20. This travel endorsement is required for re-entry into the U.S. and means that you have been attending DVC and you intend on returning to DVC. Allow a **minimum of two to three working days** for Gloria or Gena to sign your I-20.

Remember to pick up the signed I-20 from the ISAS office before leaving the U.S. ISAS will no longer mail the I-20 to the home country of the students who forget to get DSO signature or do not pick up their I-20 from the ISAS office. Students will need to ask for a I-515 form at the U.S. port of entry and will need to report to the ISAS upon arrival at DVC for instructions on how to mail their I-20 and I-94 for processing.

Documents needed to re-enter U.S. after travel:

1. Current SEVIS I-20 signed on page 3 for travel by DSO at ISAS
2. A valid passport (with at least 6 month validity)
3. A valid F-1 visa
4. A recent financial or bank statement (recommended)
5. Current school transcript from Web Advisor (recommended)

**Social Security Number**

You can only get a Social Security Number (SSN) card if you are offered a job on campus. These are the steps you must follow:

1. You must first be offered a job on campus.
2. Pick up a letter of employment form from Business Services with the employment package.
3. Take the letter of employment to your supervisor. The letter needs to be filled out and signed by the supervisor confirming that you have been offered employment.
4. Go to the ISAS office to fill out full time status confirmation form. (This authorization process may take three days.)

Take the completed letter of employment to the Social Security Office with the following documents:

   a. Letter from the ISAS office verifying full time status
   b. SEVIS I-20
   c. Passport
   d. Visa
   e. I-94

**Nearest Social Security Office**

: Walnut Creek District Office
  1111 Civic Drive, Ste. 180
  Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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**Employment**

**Campus Work**

You can work anywhere on campus for 20 or fewer hours a week. You can work more than 20 hours a week during vacation time (summer or winter break) or school holidays. If you are working on campus you must maintain your full-time status (12 units or approval to go below 12 units) in order to continue working on campus. Note: A minimum of 6 units is required for all students (domestic and international) during the fall and spring semester to work at Diablo Valley College.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**

See the ISAS Student Handbook for more information on CPT. You must have been in status for TWO semesters in an ACADEMIC program to be eligible. Time in an ESL program does NOT count. You must get the approval of a DSO (Gloria or Gena) to do CPT each semester. Students doing CPT need to maintain full-time student status. Students must also get approval of employment through the Career and Employment Services office.

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

See the ISAS Student Handbook for more information on Optional Practical Training. You must be completing an Associate’s degree or a Certificate to be eligible for OPT. Students must plan ahead, it takes approximately 90 days for the DHS Service Center to process an OPT application. You can apply for OPT three months in advance of finishing your program. See the DSO’s (Gloria or Gena) early in the semester to begin the application process.
Transfer Students

Congratulations to all the students who transferred from DVC. For the fall 2010, Approximately 356 international students transferred to four-year universities/colleges. Many students transferred to California universities (public and private) but there were also, many transfers to universities and colleges outside of California.

Top six California schools students transferred to:
- University of California at Berkeley (UCB) 88
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) 58
- University of California, San Diego (UCSD) 28
- University of California, Davis (UCD) 25
- San Francisco State University (SFSU) 23
- University of Southern California (USC) 15

Some of the out of state universities and colleges were:
- University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (9)
- Indiana University-Bloomington (7)
- State University of New York (SUNY) (3)
- University of Oregon (2)
- John Hopkins (1)
- Brown University (1)

Transfer Students Reminders (spring 2011 semester)

If you are transferring in the spring 2011 semester you need to bring your letter of acceptance from the new transfer school to ISAS to show Gloria or Gena to have your SEVIS I-20 record transferred to your new school. Please let us know if you are planning to work or travel so that we can make the best possible choice on when to transfer your record.

NOTE: If you are planning to leave the U.S. for the winter break before starting the spring 2011 term in your transfer school you must use the new transfer’s school I-20 re-enter the U.S.

TRANSFER DAY is OCTOBER 4

You are invited to attend the annual Transfer Day in the main Quad at the Pleasant Hill campus on Monday, October 4, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Over 50 college and university representatives from CSU, UC, private, and out-of-state colleges will be on campus to answer your transfer questions. This event is a perfect opportunity to learn helpful information about colleges or universities you are considering.

For information on the colleges that have confirmed that they will be at DVC for Transfer Day you can go to http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/transfer-center/events/transfer-day.htm and click on the list link.

Also on September 8 the representative from UC Davis will be at the DVC Transfer Center to discuss the Guaranteed Transfer Agreements for international students. To see the Transfer Center Calendar you can go to http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/transfer-center/events/calendar.htm?cid=Transfer

Scholarships for International Students

Continuing international students are eligible for some scholarships at DVC. They need to fill out the on-line DVC Scholarship application. By filling out the master DVC Scholarship Application on-line, students can be eligible for many different scholarships. Go to the DVC.edu website http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/foundation/scholarship/ for more scholarship information, filing dates, and the on-line application.
Off-Campus Volunteer Services

There are many possibilities for volunteering your services to the community. Volunteering is a good way to improve your English, your social skills and your resume. Visit the Career & Employment Center for more information.

Reminders

Alcohol and International Students

Many International Students experience some difficulty adjusting to a new culture, climate, and traditions in a new environment. Students may experience loneliness, anxiety, and depression leaving their home country to come to the U. S. to study. It is not uncommon to experience some difficulties. Remember that turning to alcohol to lessen the adjustment difficulties will cause more problems. Some important points to remember about excessive drinking:

- The legal age to drink in the U.S. is twenty-one.
- It is a misdemeanor to be drunk in a public place, (California Code 647f).
- Alcohol use in the school grounds is considered grounds for disciplinary action (Student Code of Conduct, www.dvc.edu/union/CodeAll.htm).
- It is illegal to drive under the influence of alcohol-DUI (California Vehicle Code 23152a).

A reminder that DVC students are eligible for five free visits to a confidential professional who can provide support in coping with stressful issues. Call 800-227-1060 to make an appointment with a counselor. Also the International Student Wells Fargo Insurance will pay 50% of counseling fees for up to twenty visits per policy year. Call 877-877-0715 or go to the website at http://www.choicecarenetwork.com to find a doctor or provider.

The Alcohol & Drug Abuse Hotline telephone number is: 925-932-8100.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is considered cheating at all educational institutions in the US and is enforced by all DVC instructors. DVC instructors take this very seriously. Students risk embarrassment, flunking the class or expulsion.

Plagiarism is representing someone else’s words, ideas, artistry, or data as one’s own, including copying another person’s work (including published and unpublished material, and material from the internet) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else’s opinions and theories as one’s own, or working jointly on a project, then submitting it as one’s own (DVC 2010/2011 Catalog, pg. 31).

International Student Club

All students are invited to join the International Student Club for the fall 2010 semester. The International Student Club provides an opportunity for students to participate in student government, volunteer work, meet other students, and plan and participate in activities. Also, club participation looks great on the students’ essays when they are ready to transfer. Contact Derek, the International Student Club president, at derek122@hotmail.com for information about the club.
International Education Week –

The International Students Club does a great job coordinating our yearly International Education Week celebrations. Last fall in conjunction with other campus clubs, the International Student Club celebrated this event with music, dancing, ethnic foods, singing and games. This year International Education Week is scheduled for the week of November 15 to 19 and the planning has already started to make this a fun event at DVC.

Go to http://www.dvc.edu/international/fun/international-education-week.htm to see pictures of the event.

ASDVC Executive Board for 2010-2011 Academic Year –

International students once again did well in the ASDVC election. Congratulations to the following international students who were elected to serve on the ASDVC Executive board for 2010-2011:

- Chang Min (Kevin) Park, Vice President Executive Affairs
- Tsz Ching Chelsea Cheung, Controller
- Ricky Wong, Parliamentarian
- Chun Ki Cheng, Public Relations
- Lek Hak (Derek) Cheang, Activities Coordinator
- Vanessa Poon, Webmaster

American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC)—

A special congratulations to Nghia Nguyen for placing 17th in the nation in the AMATYC exam for his combined rounds one and two score of 53.5. He ranked eighth in the West Region, and ranked 14th in the nations for his two score. Check out Nghia’s comments on his DVC experience (see below).

Also, congratulations to Xiaolei He, who ranked 18th in the West Regions for her combined score of 49.0.

Assessment Center Changes

Starting September 7, 2010 the Assessment Center will move to an appointment based system. In order to take an assessment students will be required to go online to the Assessment Center page http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/assessment-center/ and make an appointment to take any of the assessments.

Academic Counselor’s Corner (Mark Isham)


The link contains lots of great tips and information.

New students who missed or want to review the New International Student Presentation Just go to http://www.authorstream.com/tag/misham and click on “DVC New International Student Orientation.” There are other useful presentations to view there, too.

DVC New International Student Orientation is an introduction to college which includes information on effective course selection, student support services, transfer information and career goals to help students successfully transition into a college environment.

Continuing students at DVC can schedule counseling appointments online through the Counseling Center website: http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/counseling/online1.htm

Mark is working fewer hours this semester, so be sure to show up for your appointment or cancel in advance if you cannot make the appointment. Other counselors seeing international students this semester are Carol Okay, Mike Gonzales, and Dennis Franco.
International Students’ DVC Experience

Name: Nghia Nguyen
Home country: Vietnam
Major: Computer science
Transferring to: UC Berkeley (this is just my plan, I will apply in this fall 2010)

Goal(s): My short-term goal is transferring to UC Berkeley, majoring computer science and taking statistics as minor (that is why I choose DVC from the beginning, DVC is the college with most student admitted to UC Berkeley). I also want to join 5 years B.A/M.S program in UC Berkeley. My long-term goal is working in a field that combines both computer science and statistics, applying the computer’s computing power to analyze data.

Summarize your experience at DVC: I love every class that I have taken in DVC so far. All of my professors are excellent. They are very good at their subject and very helpful to me. Most of them have sense of humor and know how to draw students’ attention. The advisors in DVC Transfer Center are very helpful in assisting me to achieve my educational goals. Besides having a good faculty and staff, DVC does have very good and easily accessible facilities. Those elements make DVC an ideal environment for any student who wants to learn.

What do you like to do outside of DVC?: I joined the AGS club of DVC and do volunteer work (believe me, this volunteering is a hundreds time more interesting than staying at your room to surf web or do facebooking..). In the weekend, I go to my friends’ home to cook, have meal together and sometimes I help them study Math. I also go to a gym to work out in my free time.

Comments: After 3 semesters studying in DVC, I understand how DVC is one of the top feeder schools to the UC and CSU system. Thanks to my professors’ advice, I find myself in a great balance between studying and enjoying life outside of class. I hope DVC can keep doing the good works that it has done so far and be even better.

Name: Efe Ertas
Home Country: Turkey
Major: Psychology
Transferring to: San Francisco State University

Goals: Transferring to San Francisco State University and stay in the States for couple years to have some work experience. Return back to home and open my own practice.

Summarize your experience at DVC: I have been attending DVC since 2009 summer semester and I had chance to take many different courses. The best thing I like about DVC is the campus, our campus is one of the most useful campuses in the Bay Area, I guess. It is also easy to access classes or where ever you need to go. Staff is very helpful and classrooms are very comfortable because most of them are not huge so you can actually talk with your teacher and participate in class. On the other hand, if your goal is transfer like I do, it is very easy and not complicated in DVC.

What do you like to do outside of DVC: I like to stay around Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek Area most of the time and if I leave I usually go somewhere else quiet and that also has a nice view. Some of the places I like to go to are the Martinez Marina, Ocean Beach and Berkeley Hills. I spend my free time searching for new spots to have drinks or dinner with my friends. Also I like going to the City to eat my traditional foods and discover the City.
Comments: I have been living in California almost 2 years and I believe that I have had a lot of experiences and met many interesting people. DVC is a great school and I wish that I could be here for couple more semesters because it is not so crowded and easy to learn here. San Francisco is a wonderful City with a lot of international people and a lot of activities going on so you will never be bored in this City. As a result, California is one of the unique places in the States that you won’t be homesick a lot.

Name: Toshiko KOMAMIYA

Home country: JAPAN

Major: Chemistry

Transferring to: UC

Goal(s): working at pharmaceutical company

Summarize your experience at DVC: it is a great experience to study with people who really want to study.

What do you like to do outside of DVC?: I like to spend time pursuing my special interests – self development: visiting places, playing violin, painting etc.

Comments: The experience of studying with interesting students from all over the world allows me to rethink about my beliefs and thoughts and my future plans as well as it inspires me to study harder than I have ever studied in my life.

Name: Kazuya Tsukagoshi

Home country: Japan

Major: Botany, Plants Biology

Transferring to: UC Davis

Goal(s): As a doctor of plants, save and grow plants for our future. Also find new possibilities of plants and apply them to our Society, for example, in medicines.

Summarize your experience at DVC: I spend almost four years at DVC. A lot of things happened in the four years. One time, I lost my job, I had a family emergency, I had to drop all the classes I was taking because of the family emergency. The family emergency caused a financial hardship to continue study in California. Those are the biggest things that happened to me. To overcome those difficult events was hard, but I will never forget the support I got from people during these times. The things I learned and people I met at DVC were my super precious things.

What do you like to do outside of DVC?: I like road trips, watching movies, listening music, finding good restaurants, and going to clubs.

Comments: Working at ISAS was really a good experience. I met a lot of students coming from different countries and I learned some of the characteristics of each group of students from the same country. It makes me easier to get closed to other international students. I was so glad to work in ISAS because of it and also because of my sweet co-workers. This is the best place I ever worked.

Name: Dong Kyu Kim

Home Country: Korea, Republic of

Major: Business Administration

Transferring to: (trying) Haas School of Business

Goal(s): Be an international negotiator

Summarize your experience at DVC: I have started my career at DVC since Spring 2010. I started off my campus life by trying to add-in to any class possible (although never anticipated).
I've joined a business club, PBL, which enriched my life at campus even further. I pursued number of internships and works including ISAS and many more. There are numerous activities and events that DVC has got to offer, that I cannot write it all down on a single paragraph. Life at DVC, simply put, is just the BEST!

**What do you like to do outside of DVC?:**

I love snowboarding (I'm from Vancouver where 9 out of 10 people snowboard) and cars. I love to travel around the world seeing and feeling the culture first hand. I often go outdoors enjoying nature, I simply love anything outside the school.

**Comments:**

I will try my best to help any inquiries that international students may have, and also personal questions if any! Feel free to contact me in any way a little hello at the Quad would be nice =) I love meeting new people as well. I hope all students will have fantastic time at DVC as I have been for the past semesters!!!

**Overcoming my Financial Hardship Challenges**

Kazuya Tsukagoshi

My name is Kazuya Tsukagoshi. I am an international student from Japan and work at International Student Office at DVC. I major in botany and am transferring to UC Davis in 2011 spring semester. It took me almost 4 years for me to transfer to Davis since I started my studying at DVC but I learned a lot of things in the 4 years. Those are not only from classes but also from a life at DVC. What I got is not only wisdoms but also a way how I should behave as an international student.

Science majors have more requirements than other major studies but it is not only one reason for the long four years. I had a family emergency a year ago and I had to drop all the classes I was taking in the semester. It caused a huge change in my transfer plans and I had to extend my stay at DVC one year longer. I felt as if I wasted time for a while but I believe all of those experiences are worthwhile now. Overcoming hardships that developed from my changed plans made me stronger and more patient than before. The strength and patience have helped to lead me to my current situation. Actually, I was accepted by UC Davis for next semester which is 2010 Fall semester but I deferred my enrollment to 2011 Spring semester since I have financial disability which is caused by the family emergency. Before I was told about deferring, I was going to give up going to Davis because UC does not provide financial aid for international students and I could not get scholarship from them. I was trying to get scholarships and student loan from my home country, Japan, but I found out it takes time, so it seemed there was no way to get into UC Davis. However, one day, I asked my coworker if there were any way to solve the problem and she told me about deferring the enrollment. I deferred my enrollment to the next semester and am going back to Japan to get enough financial support to continue studying at UC Davis. I also hope to do an internship while in Japan so that I can gain valuable hands on experience in my major. That is the story about how I deferred my enrollment. If I gave up too easily at the beginning, I would have transferred to another university which was not as good as UC Davis for my major or I would have even decided to quit studying in America.

I have worked at International Student Office at DVC for a year and seen a lot of students who give up transferring to UC because of their financial hardships. It is hard for international students to get scholarships and UC does not provide financial aid for them. However they should not give up because of that. There must be some ways to solve those difficulties. I know it takes time and hard to find them. Studying for major is important but we can learn more things from other things. Solutions to overcoming hardships are in those
other things which students do not pay attention so much normally. Life at DVC told me that. International students are treated differently from residents sometimes and they face hardships that do not happen to other students. But they should not take advantage of those kinds of situations. They should strive to be treated the same as the other students and DVC provides the supports to make it possible. In that environment I became patient and being patient made it possible for me to study at UC Davis. If there is a lot of hardship, at first, it is an easier solution for some students to give up. International students have more pressure than others, but overcoming those pressures is the one they really have to do. Because, when they decided come here to study, they must have known it was not easy.

Life at DVC always reminded me what I thought before I came to here. There were a lot of hardships and difficulties to continue studying here, but all of those experiences are my treasure and strength for my future.