

# DVC

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[www.dvc.edu/isas](http://www.dvc.edu/isas)

# ISAS

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS & SERVICES

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 1  
Fall Edition

Dear Students:

We, at the International Student Admissions and Services office, want to welcome everyone back from summer break. Though it is sad to see the end of summer, we are looking forward to the coming semester. A special welcome to the new in-coming students!

Congratulations to the 217 students who transferred to four-year colleges/universities! Many students transferred, not only to California universities, but also to universities throughout the U.S.



### REMINDERS FROM THE ISAS OFFICE

#### International Student Medical Insurance

All international students who have Wells Fargo of California Insurance Services, Inc. will receive a new medical insurance card to use for the fall 07 and spring 08 semesters. Let Gena Gruber know if you have not received your medical insurance card by **October 10<sup>th</sup>**, and she will contact the insurance company to request a card to be sent to your home

To get more information on your medical coverage, you can pick up the 2007/2008 medical insurance brochure at the ISAS office. Very important to remember to use the phone numbers and correct provider for 2007/008. See <http://www.dvc.edu/isas/insurance.htm> for information on contact information, and medical care providers.

The medical coverage begins 8/10/07 and ends 1/7/08 and is continuous for students who will have the insurance in the spring. **Students who have their own medical insurance and want a waiver must bring in their proof-of-insurance documents before 9/14/07. No more waivers after 9/14/07.** After receiving the medical insurance waiver from the ISAS office, take it to the Cashier's Office to get your credit/refund.

**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 (DATATEL). **The Department of Homeland Security USCIS 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 not; go to the International Office to put in an address correction. **DO NOT CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS THROUGH WEB ADVISOR, INSTEAD YOU MUST COME TO THE OFFICE OR USE THE NEW STUDENT REQUEST FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.dvc.edu/isas](http://www.dvc.edu/isas).** The Student Request link is located on the left hand side of ISAS website.

**\*\*Department of Homeland Security**  
**Regulations Reminders\*\***

days after the close of course registration  
each semester.

The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS the student tracking system) places more responsibility on F-1 students to maintain their status. As we begin a new semester at DVC, we want to make sure all students are aware of some of these regulations so their student status is not jeopardized.

1. Students will need to maintain their **full-time status** at all times. Students must talk to a DSO **before** dropping to fewer than 12 units. The student's GPA should not go below 2.0.
2. Report a change of address within 10 days. The ISAS office will change your address for you.
3. Attend the college on the I-20 that they used to enter the country.
4. Report to the school international office within 15 days of their arrival to the school.
5. Transfer students need to pick up their I-20s from the DVC International Student Admissions and Services Office within 15 days of their arrival.
6. Students who drop out of school or quit school will need to leave the U.S. immediately (within 15 days).
7. Students must inform the DSO of the school they will transfer to AND present an admissions letter to that school before we will release your record to that school. Student will only be able to get an I-20 from the new school after we release the SEVIS record.
8. Only one 3 unit on-line class can count towards the 12 unit full-time requirement load for F-1 international students.
9. 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.
10. 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

### **Travel Reminder**



Students who travel outside the U.S. need to have the third page of their I-20 signed by a DSO (Gloria Zarabozo or Gena

Gruber) in order to re-enter the U.S. **Please allow at least 2 days from the date the I-20 is bought into the ISAS for the signature and pick-up.**

### **Plagiarism Reminder**

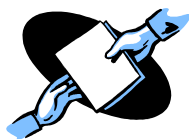
A reminder to all students that plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own, Webster's New World Dictionary, 1987) is considered cheating at DVC. Students must remember if they copy someone's words on a school assignment they need to give credit to that person(s). For more information on academic integrity see the University of Denver brochure (which was prepared with international student collaboration)at:

[http://www.du.edu/intl/iss/intz\\_integrity.pdf](http://www.du.edu/intl/iss/intz_integrity.pdf).

### **Campus Employment**

Students working on campus or taking part in Curricular Practical Training (CPT) **must maintain** their full-time student status in order to work legally. For information on off campus employment please see the "IMMIGRATION, HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS" handbook. If you do not have a copy you can pick up a copy at the ISAS office.

## Social Security



Students who want a Social Security Number (SSN) card must show evidence of employment from their campus employer. The procedure to obtain a Social Security card is as follows:

1. F-1 student must first find a job on campus.
2. Pick up a letter of employment from Business Services or ISAS office with the employment package.
3. Take the letter of employment to your DVC supervisor. The letter needs to be filled out by the supervisor confirming that the student has been offered on campus employment. You must return this letter to ISAS office and complete other forms at ISAS. Authorization for on campus employment will be given by ISAS office. This authorization process may take two days.
4. Once you have received authorization to work on campus, you should take the following documents to the Social Security Office:
  - a. Two letters from the ISAS office verifying full time status.
  - b. your I-20
  - c. your passport with F1 visa and I-94 card.

Social Security Administration Office is located:  
Walnut Creek District Office  
1111 Civic Drive, Ste. 180  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

## Scholarships for International Students

International students are eligible for some scholarships at DVC. They need to fill out the on-line DVC Scholarship application (filing period November 1, 2007 to February 1, 2008). 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/scholarships/> for more scholarship information and the on-line application. The Scholarship Office is located in AB 110.



## General Information

**International Students Request form NOW ONLINE** –International students can now 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; i.e. full-time status, bank letters, military letters, etc.
- Change of major on your I-20

The link to the online request form is “Student Request” and you can find it on the left hand side of the ISAS website: [www.dvc.edu/isas](http://www.dvc.edu/isas) .

Please allow the usual two to three days for us to complete your requests.

## **Transfer Day – OCTOBER 1**

Over 50 college representatives will be in the DVC quad from 10AM to 1PM to answer questions.

For more information please check out DVC Transfer Center website:  
[www.dvc.edu/transfer](http://www.dvc.edu/transfer)

## **Important Dates to Remember**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Sept. 14     | Last day to drop a full-term class without a “W” grade |
| Sept. 28     | Holiday-Native American Day                            |
| Nov. 16      | Last day to drop a full-term class with a “W” grade    |
| Nov .12      | Holiday – Veteran’s Day                                |
| Nov. 22 – 25 | Holiday – Thanksgiving                                 |
| Dec. 10 – 14 | Final Exam Week  |

## Volunteer Services

There are many possibilities for volunteering your services to the campus and the community. Volunteering is a good way to improve your English, your social skills and your resume.

Students can sign up for volunteer positions on-line through the MonsterTRAK job search system. If interested in volunteering:

1. Complete an application from Employment Services, which is located in the Career & Employment Services Center (located on the ground floor of the Student Services Center.)
  - a. You will receive a password that allows you to search the online system for volunteer positions.
2. When you find a volunteer position, print the information and visit Volunteer Services for additional information.
  - a. Please DO NOT show up at an agency without meeting with Volunteer Services staff first.

### Contact Information:

Career and Employment Services Center  
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
(925) 685-1230 x2579  
<http://www.dvc.edu/career/>

## Transfer Students

Congratulations to all the students who transferred from DVC. For the fall 2007 semester/quarters we had 218 international students transfer to four-year universities/colleges. Many students transferred to California Universities but there were, also, many transfers to universities and colleges outside of California.

## Transfer Students (continue)

Top five California schools students transferred to:

University of California at Berkeley (UCB)	32
San Francisco State University (SFSU)	28
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)	23
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	22
University of Southern California (USC)	14

Some out-of-state schools students transferred to: Indiana University, Bloomington (18), University of Illinois – Champaign (3), University of Michigan Ann Arbor (2), University of Texas Austin (4), Purdue University (1), Cornell University (1), Georgetown University (1), University of Hawaii, Hilo (1), Loyola Marymount University (1).

## International Student Club

**First Meeting** – The first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 9/6/07, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union Conference Room. We had a large turnout and it was a great success. We want to encourage all students to join us at the weekly club meeting scheduled every Thursday in Room # SS209, starting at 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Please email [ggruber@dvc.edu](mailto:ggruber@dvc.edu) with questions or suggestions.

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.

**Club Officers** – Congratulations to the new elected officers for the fall 07/spring 08—Elizabeth You, President; Bundit Kertbundit, Vice President; Kendrick Tong, Treasurer; and Queena Lok, ICC Representative. We look forward to electing the officers for the following offices: Secretary, Web Master, another ICC Representative, and 2 or 3 Activities Coordinators.

## International Student Club

**Club Goals** – We are planning to continue our Mentor-Mentee Program this coming semester. We are looking for volunteers to help new incoming students to adjust to studying in the U.S., introduce them to the California education system, and just provide friendship to the new students.

Also, this semester we will focus on providing opportunities for international students and American students to interact and learn about the culture of each other. The International Student Admissions and Services office applied for a \$10,000 grant. And if it is granted, there will be funds to plan many activities to promote this campus-wide interaction. The International Student Club will be working with the Student Union and the International Education Center on this project.



**International Education Week** - Last year the club coordinated the celebration of International Education Week. The club provided food for an International Food Tasting and coordinated a Globalization Forum with perspectives from three different disciplines (Psychology, Economics, Social Science). The International Student Club is looking forward to this year's International Education celebrations scheduled for the week of November 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ASDVC OFFICERS

**New ASDVC Officers** – Congratulations to the new 2007-08 Officers of the Associated Students of Diablo Valley College. All of them, except for one, are DVC F-1 international students:

President

Steven Lam

Vice President for Executive Affairs

Kei Fung

Vice President for Legislative Affairs

Steffi Gunawan

Controller

Vincci Chan

Secretary

Nerisa Arviana

Parliamentarian

Hilary Yeung

Public Relations

Aurelia Barus

Activities Coordinator

Reyner Joelianto

## International Student

By Della Wangsa

Being an international student is a challenge, especially for me. The reason is mostly because of the difference in language. I am always expected to be able to speak their language and understand what they say. Language is always a major problem for most international students. However, I believe that eventually I can manage to speak fluently in English.

Our college, Diablo Valley College, really tries to help their students to succeed in their education. There are many facilities in this college that has really helped me during my first semester here, from Tutoring Services, Counseling, International Students Office, etc. I have been in DVC for a year and so far, it has been an interesting experience for me. I have got a lot of opportunities to do so many things, such as learning new things, meeting many kinds of people, etc. Since the first day I set foot in DVC, I did not realize that there were going to be so many challenges waiting for me. I called every second in my life in United States an adventure since I really have to take care of myself from small things to big things, which sometimes I feel overwhelmed. Here is the list that sometimes I have to take care:

- registering for classes
- what classes I should take next semester
- what to eat
- finding friends
- looking for a job
- getting Good grades
- a lot of Exams, quizzes, or project
- transferring
- homesickness
- and so on

You may face different problems from I do, but those are the most common problems inside my mind for most international students. The list, obviously, makes me scared to imagine because there are so many things I have to think about for my education. However, once you get through all

of those, it will be a big relief. Honestly, I am really waiting for that time to come.

Everyday I have to face exams, quizzes, and assignments, which scares me sometimes. Every time I hear those words, my mind starts to think that I have to get good grades, in order to transfer to a good 4-year institution. At times, it is a little bit hard to get a good grade when we are facing a hard subject, such as Mathematics. We have to put more work to it and more practice. I have to say that Mathematics is not my favorite subject and I have to study very hard to pass the class. There was a time when I really wanted to give up and dropped the class because I just could not stand the pressure from exams and quizzes. However, I just did not want to quit that easily and I finally passed the class.

The next thing that I have to face is transferring. Everyone I meet always asks where I am going to transfer and personally, I do not have the answer. I am very confused about where I want to go and which school fits me best. Of course, we hope we can get in to an excellent institution but that does not guarantee that their system will fit us well. Moreover, I have to start thinking about it more seriously because in the next few months I have to start sending my application to many 4-year institutions.

Homesickness is also another challenge. When I am stressed or facing a problem, I just wish I could go back to my country and meet with my family, a place where I belong. However, I realize that everything that I have to face today is going to be a lesson for me in the future. I, personally, believe that after all these years in United States, I am going to have a lot of stories to share to other people about my experience [read: adventure] here. In addition, I will be more independent and responsible for bettering myself.