

# DVC

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ADMISSIONS (ISAS)

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# NEWSLETTER

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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 252 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 08 and spring 09 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 2008/2009 medical insurance brochures at the International Students Admissions and Services Office (ISAS) room 210 of the Student Services building. It is very important to remember to use the phone numbers and correct provider for 2008/2009. See <http://www.dvc.edu/isas/insurance.htm> for information on contact information, and medical care providers.

The medical coverage begins 8/10/08 and ends 1/7/09 and is continuous for students who will have the insurance in the spring. All DVC F-1 students will be charged the \$279.00 when they register for the fall 2008 semester. **No more waivers after 9/18/08.** Students who received an insurance waiver because they have their own insurance please remember to take your medical insurance waiver form 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\*\***

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 you used to enter the country.
4. Report to the school international office within 15 days of your arrival to the school.
5. Transfer students need to pick up their I-20s from the DVC ISAS 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. You must inform the DVC DSO of the school you 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 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 days after the close of course registration each semester.

## **Travel Reminder**

Students who travel outside the U.S. and are planning to return to DVC must have the DSO (Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber) sign the third page of their I-20 in order to re-enter the U.S. **Please allow at least 3 days from the date the I-20 is brought into the ISAS for the signature and pick-up.**



## **Plagiarism Reminder**

Please remember that plagiarism is considered cheating at all educational institutions in the US and is enforced by all DVC instructors.

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 2008/2009 Catalog, pg. 31,32).

### **Campus Employment**

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 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)**

Students interested in working off campus must talk to the International Students' school's DSOs (Gloria or Gena) to discuss whether or not they are eligible and to get authorization. For more information on CPT please refer to the Student Handbook. You can pick up a copy at ISAS in room 210 of the Student Services building.

### **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

Students interested in applying for OPT starting in the spring 2009 semester must see Gloria or Gena to make sure they are eligible and for authorization. See the ISAS Student Handbook for more information. Students must be completing an Associate's degree or a Certificate to be eligible for OPT. It takes 90 days for the Department of Homeland Security to process an OPT application. Remember to see Gloria or Gena at least 2 or 3 months before the fall semester ends if you are interested in applying for OPT for spring 2009!

### **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 (filing period November 1, 2008 to February 1, 2009). 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, telephone is 925-685-1230 ext. 2559, hours open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Transfer Conference**

You are invited to attend the Transfer Conference on October 18 at the Diablo Valley College campus. The conference will consist of speakers from the University of California campuses, the CSU campuses and representatives from the private sector. There will be a special session for international students, which will include DVC alumni who have transferred to the four-year schools. There will also be a drawing for a cash prize. A special letter inviting you to register for this conference will be sent out to you on September 24. If your address is correct you should get it in the mail.

### **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: full-time status, bank letters, military letters, etc.

Change of major on your I-20

The link to the online request form is [http://www.dvc.edu/isas/Forms/Student\\_request.htm](http://www.dvc.edu/isas/Forms/Student_request.htm).

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

Academic Counselor  
for international students  
MARK ISHAM  
is available for drop-in counseling at  
ISAS office every  
Wednesday 2 to 3:30 p.m.

## Social Security -SSN

You can only get a Social Security Number (SSN) if you are offered a job. If you are offered a job 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 by the supervisor confirming that you have been offered employment.
4. Go to the ISAS office to fill out status confirmation form. This can 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

### Transfer Students Reminder (Spring 2009 semester)

If you are transferring in the spring 2009 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 2009 term in your transfer school you must use the new transfer's school I-20 re-enter the U.S.

## Transfer Students

Congratulations to all the students who transferred from DVC. For the fall 2008 semester/quarters we had 252 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.

Top five California schools students transferred to:

UCB	49
UCLA	50
UCSD	18
USC	19
SFSU	23

Some out-of-state schools students transferred to:

Babson University (2), Ohio State University (4)  
Indiana University – Bloomington (2),  
Indiana State University (2), University of  
Michigan-Ann Arbor (3), Cornell (1), Illinois  
Institute of Technology (2), State University of  
New York (SUNY).

## International Student Club

We want to encourage all students to join us at the weekly club meeting scheduled Wednesdays in Room H 110, starting at 3:30pm to 4:30pm. The club president for fall 2008 and spring 2009 is Mosara Chan. This semester the International Students academic counselor, Mark Isham will be the club Advisor. Please email him at [misham@dvc.edu](mailto:misham@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.

## 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 17th to 21st.

## Are you transferring to CSU or UC in fall 2009?

Fall is the season for CSU and UC applications for fall 2009 admissions. There will be some presentations and workshops especially for international students planning to transfer for fall 2009. Consider attending one of these events:

- UC personal statement workshop, Friday October 31, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Math Building 103.
- CSU online application workshop, Monday November 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Library 201.
- UC online application workshop, Wednesday November 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Library 201.
- UC personal statement feedback, Friday November 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Counseling Center (**NOTE: Bring a printout of your personal statement AND a printout of your COMPLETED UC application**).
- UC personal statement workshop, Friday November 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Math Building 103.
- UC personal statement feedback, Friday November 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Counseling Center (**NOTE: Bring a printout of your personal statement AND a printout of your COMPLETED UC application**).

Students desiring help with their CSU or UC application and/or personal statement may also make an appointment by visiting or calling the Counseling Center, 925-685-1230, ext. 2276. If you make an appointment for help with your personal statement, **bring a printout of your personal statement AND a printout of your COMPLETED UC application.**

For more information, visit the following links:

<http://www.dvc.edu/isas/PDF/CSU%20online%20application.pdf>

<http://www.dvc.edu/isas/PDF/Personal%20Statement%202008.pdf>

## The International Student Experience

By Gita Christy

Being a student, especially international student, was never as easy as I thought before. There are a whole bunch of things to do, and you have more responsibilities not only to yourself but to people around you also. When I first came here, I didn't know anybody here. I found myself in a very horrible situation when I had to choose for my classes on the first semester, even messed up I'd say. I know a lot of new students were having a hard time at their first semester and trust me, you're not the only one. Second semester was so much better than the first semester. You'll find it easier to get into the classes that you want, and you know better about what classes you have to take. And I'd recommend the drama class; it was so much fun and you can make some friends with new people, especially Americans. I took that class and I was the only international student in that class. But you know what, the other students were so nice and it's fun to talk to them. Then you'll have your summer, and you'll find yourself get tan A LOT. I even feel like a zebra right now (since I wrote this on summer, and it's definitely BURNING outside). And I got my first job, it was so exciting to get my first paycheck. If you're looking for a job, then I'd suggest you to look for it when the semester is going to end, because a lot of students will be transferring which means, a lot of openings especially for fall semester. Well, I'm going to have my third semester this fall, and I'm excited about it. Living in the US isn't that bad, even though sometimes life can be sucks and you'll hate it. But actually, it's fun to be an international student in here. I find it exciting if I meet people that speak the same language with me, because you're not in your home country, you're in other people's country. And you'll feel a lot of changes in your life. One year in my life has gone so fast, that I could still remember the very first time I arrived in SFO, seems just like yesterday. You might find it quite expensive to spend your money here for food and other stuffs. And you might be surprised when you found out that a book could worth \$100 something. But you'll get used to it, at least after one semester. I found myself changed a lot then what I used to be. I even have a different perspective of life now than what I used to have. Life goes on, it'll change a lot, but you'll find it's fun to see it changes. So just try to enjoy your time here, make friends a lot, have fun, and try not to get stressed out a lot, LOL.