

DVC International Student Admissions and Services Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 2

Fall Edition
October, 2002



Dear Students:

As we start on the second half of the fall semester, it becomes important for us here at the ISAS office, to touch base with everyone. We are, presently, gearing up for the implementation of the INS Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) required for all U.S. colleges and universities by 1/30/03. This new electronic tracking and reporting system will provide the INS with automated information about international students.

As many of you know, there is a new international student club on campus. The club will provide more opportunities for international students to meet and provide support for each other, get involved in college student government, and plan special activities.

A reminder for everyone who plans to travel over the holidays to bring your I-20 to the ISAS to be signed by Gloria or Gena. Allow two days to process.

REMINDERS FROM THE ISAS OFFICE

International Student Medical Insurance – All international students should be charged or



will be charged for medical insurance for the fall 2002 semester unless they have gotten a waiver from the ISAS office. Please check your registration receipt to make sure you were charged. See Gena at the ISAS office if you were not charged for the insurance fee. We want to make sure everyone has medical insurance coverage. Besides coverage due to injury or sickness and hospitalization expenses it also includes medical repatriation and medical evacuation expenses.

Next semester (spring 2003) the medical insurance fee will be \$295.00 (includes summer). This amount is automatically deducted when the students' register for the spring semester. The coverage starts 1/7/03 and ends 8/10/03 and is continuous for students who had the insurance in the fall. The last day to obtain a medical insurance waiver for the spring semester is on **February 14th**.

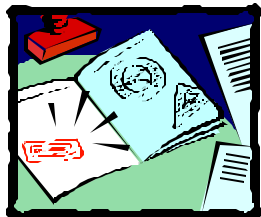


Address Changes or Corrections - Please remember to inform the ISAS office of any address changes or corrections so we can make the change. INS requires that students inform the DSO within 10 days of a change of address. Students changing their address must also fill out a form AR-11 with INS.

This form can be found at the following website <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/> or you can pick one up at the ISAS office.

INS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SEVIS - (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) – The International Student Admissions and Services office is presently in the process of preparing for the new INS mandated electronic system (SEVIS). SEVIS is an internet-based system that allows schools and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services to exchange data on the status of international students. Information is transmitted electronically throughout an F-1 student's academic career in the United States. All U.S. College international offices are required to use SEVIS starting **1/30/03** to collect, maintain, and track information on F-1 international students. All F-1 students will be issued a new I-20 with an INS bar code on the top right corner to better control and manage new and continuing students in their education.



As it gets closer to that date, we want to make sure everyone is aware of the INS regulations and updates for F-1 students some of which are:

1. Students will need to maintain their **full-time status** at all times. Students must see the DSO before taking fewer than 12 units.
2. Report a change of address within 10 days.
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.
7. Students must inform the DSO of the school they will transfer to before they will be able to get an I-20 from the new school.

ISEAS

The ISAS office is presently informing the Department of State by email whenever a student is issued an I-20. All college International Offices are required to use this Interim Student & Exchange Authentication System (ISEAS) until SEVIS is up and running. For those of you who have brothers, sisters, or friends coming to DVC for the spring 2003 semester please let us know if the incoming students are having problems with their Embassy accessing this information from their database.



Traveling Outside of the USA – All F-1 students wishing to travel outside the U.S. and who are returning to DVC **must have** the DSO, Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber sign on page 4 of their 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 days** for Gloria or Gena to sign your I-20. If you are not returning to DVC but will be going to a new school for the spring term, you cannot use the DVC I-20 to re-enter the country. You must get a new I-20 from your new school.

It is highly advised that students have all the required documents readily available and up-to-date to allow for re-entry in F-1 status. These documents should include: (1) a current I-20 properly endorsed by Gloria or Gena for re-entry if there is no substantive change in the information on the student's most recent I-20, (2) a valid F-1 Visa, (3) a valid passport, (4) a recent financial statement, and (5) a DVC school transcript.

Full-time Status – All F-1 students are required to maintain full-time status while studying at Diablo Valley College. A minimum of 12 units must be taken each semester. The student GPA should not be below 2.0. Students **must talk** to a DSO **BEFORE** dropping below 12 units to make sure that they have an acceptable reason for being below the full-time equivalent.

Campus Employment – Students working on campus **must maintain** their full-time student status (12 units) in order to work on campus. Also, students doing curriculum practical training (CPT) need to maintain full-time student status.

General Information

Scholarships for International Students – International Students are eligible for some scholarships at DVC. They need to fill out the DVC Scholarship application. By filling out the master DVC Scholarship Application, students can be eligible for many different scholarships. See Eva Monteverde, the Scholarship Coordinator, for more scholarship information. Her office is in the Financial Aid Office. Applications become available in October and must be received in the Scholarship Office by mid-February in order for the student to receive a scholarship for the next academic year.



Last year (2001-2002) about twenty F-1 DVC students were awarded scholarships! Some of the scholarship recipients were awarded several scholarships.

Transfer Workshops – There are several transfer workshops scheduled by the Counseling Department for students who are interested in transferring to UC/CSU. Visit the counseling department to get more information on when these workshops are available. To sign up for a workshop, go to the Transfer Center or call 685-1230 ext. 2588. Also check out the Transfer Center website to view the calendar of college representatives at www.dvc.edu/transfer.

Application workshops: DVC counselors will be presenting several workshops to help students with the application process. Check out the workshop schedule in the website: www.dvc.edu/transfer.

Essay Workshops: There are several college essay workshops scheduled for November for those of you who will be applying to a UC campus. College application essay topics and the writing process will be discussed:

November 5, H 110, Tom Barber	5:30-6:45 p.m.
November 6, L 201, Tom Barber	2:30-3:45 p.m.
November 9, Music 101, Debra Stevens	10:30-11:45 a.m.
November 13, H 109, Tom Barber	5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Tutoring Services – A reminder to all students to take advantage of the free tutoring services available to everyone at Diablo Valley College.

Counseling – Students who need assistance with their student education planning to prepare for transfer or help in deciding what classes to take can make an appointment with an academic counselor in the counseling department. It is highly recommended that students visit a counselor every semester to make sure they are on track in taking the correct classes for their major or transfer school.

DVC Student Discounts

Students can qualify for the following discounts with the Associate Students Card:

DVC Book Center	5% off school textbooks
Contra Costa Cycling	10% off parts and accessories, 5% off bikes. 2263 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill
Fuddruckers	10%, 1975 Diamond Blvd, Concord.
Mail Boxes Etc.	10% 180 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill
DVC Round Table Pizza	15% 85 Chilpancingo Pkwy, Pleasant Hill
Carrow's Restaurant	10% 642 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill

Additional discounts may be available when you show your ASDVC photo ID at:

Movie Theaters	Plays
Museums	Ski Resorts
Dance Clubs	Zoo
Restaurants	Bowling
Florists	Travel

Important Dates to Remember

November 11 -	Holiday – Veteran's Day
November 16 -	Last day to withdraw from full-term length course
Nov. 28 – Dec. 1 -	Holiday – Thanksgiving
Dec. 9 – 16 -	Final Examinations
December 16 -	Last day of instruction
January 13 -	First day spring 2003 semester

International Student Club

This semester the international students started up the International Student Club. The students voted in the officers and an Activity Coordinator. Fenno Ogutu is the faculty advisor. International students will have a better opportunity to have a voice in the campus by participating in student government, make new friends, get involved in campus activities, and have fun with other international students. The club has many activities planned for the members. All international students are welcome to join the club. Please come to the ISAS office for information on upcoming meetings or contact the club representatives via email at isc_dvc@yahoo.com.

International Student Club Executive Council Profile



Name: Kim Mahler
Title: President
Major: 2nd Semester, Engineering
Country: Germany

I would like to help International students create a club for their own advantage. This club will enable interaction between members from diverse backgrounds.



Name: Nayong Kim
Title: Vice - President
Major: 3rd Semester
Country: Korea

Hello,
It is a great honor and privilege for me to be one of the leaders of this club. I am willing and prepared to overcome many difficulties and accomplish the task of promoting communication between students by holding various events. If you are interested in our club, come and join us!



Name: Adeline Tan
Title: Treasurer
Major: 3rd Semester, Business Accounting
Country: Indonesia

Hi ... nice to meet you guys!
It is an honor for me to be the Treasurer of the International Student Club. I will do my best for this club, so that other DVC clubs and students can know about our club and its activities.



Name: Damien Chong
Title: Inter Club council Representative

Get a globe, turn it 135° westward from California. Which country will you find sitting above the Equator line? Yep, that is where I'm from – Malaysia. It's a rather small yet unique country, rich with various cultures and religions, and also a tropical food paradise! Wow... This is what students will bring into this club. Imagine: students from every corner of the world can share their thoughts and experiences under one roof. Wouldn't this be awesome? Come y'all, tons of excitement waiting for you!



Name: Audry Kusnadi
Title: Secretary

When I heard that an International Student Club was being formed, I was happy. My motivation for joining the club is the excitement of meeting people from all over the world, and learning to work in an organization. As the secretary of this club, I look forward to meeting the International students at DVC and hearing their ideas/opinions that will make our club stronger. This is going to be fun! Come and join us!

