

DVC International Student Admissions and Services Newsletter

Vol. 4, No. 1

Spring Edition
January, 2004



Dear Students: Welcome back to the spring 2004 semester. We, also, want to wish all the new incoming F-1 students a warm welcome and we look forward to getting to know all of you better.

Students are welcome to come in and see Gloria or Gena at the ISAS office for information on F-1 student issues. We realize that because of the increased Department of Homeland Security regulations, students are under a lot more pressure to stay in status in order to continue their studies in the U.S.

Finally, we want to say good-bye to Dorothy Wozel, our office assistant at the ISAS Office. Dorothy will be transferring to SFSU in the spring 2004 semester. We also want to welcome Renell Clarke who has joined the ISAS Office as the new office assistant.

REMINDERS FROM THE ISAS OFFICE

International Student Medical Insurance – The same medical insurance card will be used for the **spring/summer 2004 semesters**. Only new students will receive a new medical



insurance card in the spring 2004 semester. Contact Gena at ISAS if you have lost your card or did not receive one so she can notify Somerton Insurance to send a new card.

For the spring semester the medical insurance fee will be \$317.00 (includes summer). This amount is automatically included when the students' register for the spring semester. The coverage starts 1/7/04 and ends 8/10/04 and is continuous for students who had the insurance in fall 2003. All DVC F-1 students will be charged this mandatory medical insurance fee.

The last day to obtain a medical insurance waiver from the ISAS office for the spring semester is on February 17th. Remember to take the insurance waiver to the Cashier's Office to get your refund or credit as soon as you pick it up from the ISAS office.

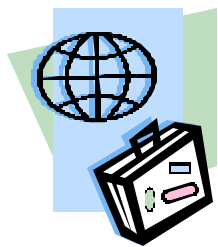
Late starting Classes: A reminder to students who still need to get their 12 units to be in status—there are still openings in short-term late starting 9 week classes. Go to the DVC website or look in the schedule pages 23-25 for more information.

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). USCIS (immigration) regulations require that students inform the DSO (Gloria or Gena) within 10 days of a change of address. You can just fill out a form at the office

SEVIS – (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) A reminder to all DVC F-1 international students that the SEVIS electronic database tracking system is up and running in all U.S. schools that admit F-1 international students. We are required to report information on students directly through this SEVIS system to USICE (U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement). In order to make sure students are aware of some of these F-1 student regulations, we are reprinting them once again:

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 (within 15 days).
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.
8. Only one (3 unit) on-line class per semester can be counted towards the required 12 units full time requirement. Nine units must be on-campus classes.

Special Registration Update – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a rule that amends several requirements associated with the Special Registration Program see: <http://www.nafsa.org/content/ProfessionalandEducationalResources/ImmigrationAdvisingResources/200312001.pdf> Under the new rule, students subject to Special Registration are still subject to departure controls that require them to use only designated ports of departure when departing the U.S., but they are **no longer required to report to DHS offices in between entry and departure (30-day and annual re-registrations)**. The rule also provides that F-1 students who report changes in address to the international office as required through SEVIS are not required to also report those changes using Form AR-11SR.



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 3 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.

Full-time Status – We want to remind all F-1 students that they 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. For information on curriculum practical training see Gloria or Gena. For information on available campus jobs go to Job Placement in the Career Center.

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 Cindy Heilesen, the Scholarship Coordinator, for more scholarship information. Her office is in AB 115. **Deadline for applying:** Applications become available November 3, 2003 and must be received in the Scholarship Program Office by 4:00 p.m. February 9, 2004 in order for the students to receive a scholarship for the next academic year.

Last year (2002-2003) about twenty-six F-1 DVC students were awarded scholarships! Some of the scholarship recipients were awarded several scholarships.

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 taking the correct classes for their major or transfer school.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 29 - Last day to drop a full-term course and get a refund.
Last day to add a full-term course.
- Jan 15-April 8 - A.A. degree or certificate of achievement filing period.
- February 14 - Last day to drop without a “W” appearing on transcript—full term courses.
- April 30 - Last day to drop a full-term course.

Transfer Information

- February 16 - SFSU transfer student application deadline for the fall 2004 Semester.
- February 11 - A SFSU International Student Transfer Advisor will be available at the Transfer Center on Wednesday, 2/11, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- March 24 - CSU Transfer Fair in the Quad on Wednesday, 3/24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Many CSU campuses are still open for fall 2004 Admission. Check WWW.csmentor.edu or come to the DVC center for information.

International Student Club

The club was involved in several activities last semester. They planned a field trip to the beach and Mt. Tamapais in Marin, soccer, basketball games, and a Halloween exhibit contest table in the Quad. They also planned several parties, games, and activities at the weekly meetings. It was a great semester and we are looking forward to more fun for this semester. Being involved in the club, you will have the opportunity to meet people all around the world. Most importantly, you will start building a good record for yourself for transferring to your future university.

Students interested in joining the club for the spring 2004 semester should email Varoonchai Leekanchanakorn at varoonchai@hotmail.com or Gena Gruber at ggruber@dvc.edu for more information.

1st International Student Club Meeting

Date: Thursday, 2/5/04

Time : 3:30pm

Where: Margaret Lesher Student Union Building Clubroom.

Refreshments will be served. We will be nominating two new officers--a new secretary and a new Inter-Club Council Representative. We will also be presenting our roadmap and the activities for this semester.

International Education Week-The club celebrated International Education Week (11/17-11/21). The theme was "Many Cultures/One World. Flags representing the countries of all the international students were hung in the Quad during that week. There were tables in the quad with information on different countries, and exhibits. The area's sister cities of Chilpancingo, Mexico and Merzifon in Turkey will also have a table exhibit in the quad.

"ISC teaches me that if I wanna see the RAINBOW, I gotta put up with the rain first. Problems ought to be solved, not be disturbed. ISC has developed me into a potential future leader." Varoonchai Leekanchanakorn



Members of the ISC club and IEC after a game of soccer



Masahiko Hasegawa (Treasurer) and Varoonchai Leekanchanakorn (President) Mt. Tamalpais fieldtrip