

# internationals

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

## Congratulations, International Spartans!!!

This May 6, at the Expo Hall at the Florida State Fairgrounds, the UT's 156th commencement will have two ceremonies, one will take place at 9:30 AM, and the second one at 2 PM.

We are extremely proud and excited for the graduation of more than 90 international students from around 40 different nationalities this Spring 2023. At least 56 of them are applying for OPT. We will keep processing OPT requests for this semester graduates until June 29, 2023.



## ISSS PORTAL



Optional Practical  
Training (OPT)

Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a temporary work authorization that gives F-1 students an opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to a practical off-campus work experience immediately following graduation in the student's major field of study for a maximum duration of one year per educational level.

Authorization is granted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and USCIS requires an OPT endorsed I-20, issued and signed by your DSO no more than 30 days from the submission of your application.

The main reason for OPT denials is submitting the application to the USCIS without the endorsement of your International Student Advisor reflected in your I-20. Please read all the instructions and guides we have provided in the request and on our website [www.internationalservices.ut.edu](http://www.internationalservices.ut.edu).

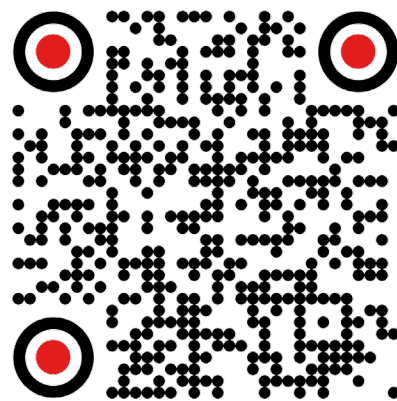
## ISSS Events

We are looking for international students to volunteer for the **New International Student Orientation** sessions during the **Week Of Welcome** August 21-25, 2023.

You would need to attend a training meeting for all volunteers on Monday August 21, to understand what will be your role during the 3 sessions of Wednesday 23, Thursday 24 and Friday 25.

This is a great opportunity for you to serve and represent the human and social values that makes UT's international community so special.

Please register for this amazing event.





## the tip of this month



If your visa is expiring before your graduation and you wish to renew it, you must consider these 4 important facts:

1. You can remain the US with an expired visa if your I-20 reflects that you remain in F-1 status.
2. You can try to renew your visa up to 6 months before it expires.
3. You cannot renew your visa in the US. You need to go to your home country and apply there.
4. Visa renewal applications during your last semester or during OPT are often denied

Please consult with your International Student Advisor before starting any visa renewal process.

## GOOD NEWS!!

UT's **International Student Association** is registered and functioning!! Our end of semester get-together/general meeting was awesome!! If you haven't joined yet, you should now. Undergraduate students can do it through **InvolveUT** platform in **MyUTampa**. All international students can follow our Instagram **@isa\_utampa** and ask for the invitation to our WhatsApp group.



The Office of International Programs co-sponsored with the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion the 2023 Fire & Ice International Gala, which took place last Saturday April 22nd.

Kudos to the Caribbean Student Association, Utampa's **AΦA** and UTampa's **ΔΣΘ**, for such a great job in putting together an incredible event!

Thank you to all that showed up!! And for those who couldn't, we hope to see you next year.

internationals newsletter welcomes any contribution from international students. If you would like to share your writing talent about a topic of interest to all international spartans, please reach out to our office.



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