

# internationals

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

## Spring Break!!

Spring Break Season has started, and airports struggle to manage very high volumes of passengers.

If you are planning to take off to visit home or just a quick get-away, you need to plan in advance and be ready to have a pleasant trip. Be extra early at the airport (3 hrs or more) and make sure you have your passport valid for at least 6 months in the future, your valid visa and your I-20 with Travel Endorsement on page 2 issued less than 11 months ago.



If you decide to travel inside the US, including Puerto Rico or US virgin Islands, remember that you don't need your I-20, or a Travel Signature for domestic flights, just your passport or your State Driver License. Enjoy this week away from classes and exams. It is always healthy to take a break. Safe Travels!

## ISSS PORTAL



### Optional Practical Training (OPT)

For those graduating at the end of this semester, it is important to know that you can remain in the US after your graduation for up to 12 months to accumulate professional experience.

You can apply to the USCIS for a work permit to be employed in a job directly related to your major of study. This is called Optional Practical Training (OPT) and applications started on February 4th and will be accepted until July 2nd. But filing early will give you the chance to travel outside of the US and apply for jobs with certainty of when you can start.

Refer to our website for details ([www.internationalservices.ut.edu](http://www.internationalservices.ut.edu)) or contact your DSO.

## ISSS March Event

Monday, March 25



### Updates on US Immigration. A talk with Dr. Ahmad

Former international student himself, Dr. Ahmad is one of the top immigration attorneys in the Tampa Bay area. Join us from 5 to 7 PM at Plant Hall's Music Room.



Register in INVOLVE UT

[https://involveut.ut.edu/oip/club\\_signup](https://involveut.ut.edu/oip/club_signup)



## the tip of this month



Did you know that if you are admitted into the US with a tourist visa you would be ineligible to study at a university?

Sometimes the Customs and Border Protection officers make the mistake of assuming that you are entering the country for tourism, and they issue a I-94 record with the wrong class. This mistake will cost you a lot of headaches.

It is recommended that you always hand your passport together with your I-20, even if they don't ask for it. In the case you are questioned "What is the reason of your visit?", you should respond "I'm an F-1 student at the University of Tampa", so they know for sure what class to use when they admit you and issue your I-94 record.

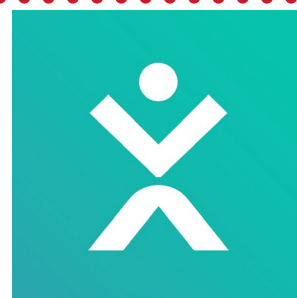
It is important to be aware that, as a non-resident in the US, you're legally required to file a tax return whether you received US income or not during 2023 by the 15 April 2024 deadline.

If you didn't work or receive income in the US, you're still obliged to file a Form 8843 with the IRS.

Since our office is not authorized, nor qualified to answer any tax related questions, the University of Tampa has arranged access to Sprintax for you.

Sprintax will guide you through the tax preparation process, collect the necessary documents and check if you're due a tax refund.

Sprintax is holding webinars to learn more about your tax filing obligations to make the process of tax time even easier and less stressful for you.



**SPRINTAX  
WEBINARS**

### Sprintax Free Educational Tax Webinars:

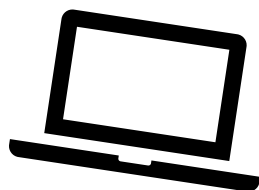
[Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm EST – Register here](#)

[Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm EST – Register here](#)

[Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 2pm EST – Register here](#)

[Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm EST – Register here](#)

[Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11am EST – Register here](#)



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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