Do You Need Reduced Course Load (RCL) Authorization?

- Full time enrollment is defined as:
  - Graduate Students: 9 credits (or full time dissertation status)
  - Undergraduate Students: 12 credits
- If Fall 2015 will be your last term at Pitt in your current program and you will not enroll full time as indicated above, you must submit a Reduced Course Load Request (through My OIS).
- The request must be approved by OIS no later than Friday, September 11, 2015 (the last day of add/drop) in order for you to maintain your immigration status. You will know that your request has been approved when you receive an email asking you to pick up an updated Form I-20 with the RCL approved.
- For more info about RCL, visit OIS' website.
EXPERIENCE AMERICA

Experience America is a series of events and activities developed by the staff in the Office of International Services designed to engage exchange visitors in J-1 status and their dependents in aspects of American culture and to learn more about living in Pittsburgh. Graduate students and their dependents are also invited to attend Experience America Events.

The following is a tentative schedule for the next Academic Year for Experience America. We hope to see all of you at one or more of the planned events!

FALL TERM EVENTS

- **Kickoff Party**, Friday, September 18, 2015, 12—2 PM
  A party featuring American Football traditions including “tailgating” games and food, and lots of fun

- **Trip to Trax Farms**, October 2015
  Celebrate “Fall” with a trip to include pumpkin picking, viewing the colorful leaves, and so much more!

- **Global Pittsburgh First Thursday Happy Hour** for globally-minded people, November 2015
  Make new friends and learn more about different cultures in the famous Strip District of Pittsburgh!

- **Winter in Pittsburgh**, a Lunch and Learn session, November 2015
  Prepare to face the Winter in Pittsburgh including winter weather preparation and activities.

- **Holiday Event**, December 2015
  Details are forthcoming about a fun and interactive event to be scheduled before Winter Break!
EXPERIENCE AMERICA

SPRING TERM EVENTS

- **Snow Tubing**, February 2016
  Enjoy some winter weather and have some fun with this outdoor activity in the snow!

- **Trip to Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History**, March 2016
  At this event, you can make new friends and witness some of the art and history on display in Oakland.

- **Gallery Crawl**, April 2016
  Experience the Cultural District downtown and see contemporary art while meeting new people.

- **The 2016 US Election**, a Lunch and Learn session, April 2016
  Learn about the exciting presidential election, US electoral college and other hot topics for 2016.

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

- **Venture Outdoors Festival**, May 2016
  Join your peers and meet new friends! Climbing Wall, Fishing, Boating and MORE at Point State Park.

- **Pirates Game**, June 2016
  Experience America’s Favorite Past Time and take in the beautiful Pittsburgh Skyline from PNC Park.
UPDATE YOUR US ADDRESS

SEVIS recently made some formatting changes which make it easier for OIS to collect your address change information via My OIS. Many of you already use My OIS to submit your local address changes, but this is a new way to update OIS for students. From now on, if you move to a new address in Pittsburgh, please follow these steps to inform OIS of the change:

1. Log-in to My OIS
2. Go to Biographical Information
3. Choose “Change of Address”
4. Enter your new address information
5. Click Submit

This shouldn’t take more than a minute. Thank you for helping us with this change to our processes!

ALISON’S ZAPPATITE: Razzy Fresh

For this edition of Alison’s Zappa-tite, I have decided to write about one of my favorite summer treats and a place I frequent quite often during the ‘dog days of summer’ – Razzy Fresh! Razzy Fresh is a frozen yogurt shop where you are able to pick your own frozen yogurt flavors and toppings, while serving yourself! The unique concept allows you to pick as many flavors and toppings as you want, and as much or as little as you please. Your treat is charged by weight, so the heavier the contents, the higher the cost. I recommend going for the smaller cup sizes so you don’t end up with a $10 dish of fro-yo (true story). On my most recent trip to Razzy Fresh, I chose 3 different fro-yo flavors, original (simple, just the right amount of yogurty tartness), mango (great fruit flavor and just a hint of sweet), and taro (a different taste, derived from an edible root vegetable, but on the sweeter side, definitely worth a little pump to try). I skipped the toppings on this trip, but there is an array of fruits, candies, cookies, and other ice cream sundae like toppings to choose from in a salad bar type set up. There are three Razzy Fresh locations in the Pittsburgh area, two in Oakland (3533 Forbes Ave. and 300 S Craig St.) and one in Squirrel Hill (1717 Murray Ave.) Don’t forget to pick up one of their loyalty cards… with every visit you get a stamp, and once you buy 9 fro-yo’s the 10th one is free!
HOW TO BEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER

During the hottest days of summer, Americans head to the beach, the pool or their own backyards. July and August are the hottest months and for kids often the only way to enjoy the last days of summer are to put on their swimsuits and get wet!

Pittsburghers can enjoy the numerous Citiparks Outdoor Pools and other neighborhood pools. Admission to the pool closest to you can be paid daily, ranging from $3 to $12, or by purchasing a season pass ranging from $15 for a child to $250 for a family. To learn more about the Citiparks Outdoor Pools, visit this [website](#). Various neighborhoods outside the City of Pittsburgh also offer pools for use by non-residents. Among these are: Dormont Swimming Pool, Mt Lebanon Swim Center, Upper Saint Clair Community and Recreation Center, Greentree Borough Pool, Crafton Swimming Pool, North Park Swimming Pool, and Forest Hills Community Pool.

Another option might be to visit one of Pittsburgh’s Citiparks Spray Parks, sprinkled throughout the City. These parks can help children cool off without the need to submerge in a pool or to allow them some freedom to move about as they wish!

For swimmers craving more of a “beach” experience, the County of Allegheny offers three “Wave Pools”, one at Boyce Park, one at South Park and one at Settlers Cabin.

This article from Pittsburgh Magazine, although several years old, titled “A Beach Within Reach” can offer suggestions on several beach destinations less than five hours’ drive from Pittsburgh.

For folks seeking a day-long excursion at an amusement-park type location, [Sandcastle Water Park](#) is the place for you!

For families living in the suburbs, the backyard can be a great water playland as well. Kiddie pools and Slip-n-slides are found in most backyards with the kids sliding down the hills and splashing in the small pool. Or, sometimes all it takes is a water hose, squirt guns or a water balloon fight to cool down.

Whatever you do, be sure to review these [Water Safety Tips](#) and remember to apply sunblock!

Enjoy your Dog Days of Summer!
PITTSBURGH ZOO AND PPG AQUARIUM

The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, located in the Highland Park neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA, was established over a century ago. The zoo sits on 77 acres of park land where it exhibits more than 4,000 animals representing 475 species.

The facility is open 362 days per year, offering summer hours of 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. through Labor Day.

Daily admission rates are as follows: Adults - $15, Seniors (60+ years of age) - $14, Children (ages 2-13) - $13 and Children under 24 months - Free.

The Zoo features several sections, including Kids Kingdom, PPG Aquarium, Asian Forest, Tropical Forest, African Savanna, Bears, African Ravine, Water’s Edge and The Islands.

This article was written in part with content from this Wikipedia page.

PITTSBURGH RESTAURANT WEEK

The mission of Pittsburgh Restaurant Week is to highlight the wide-ranging dining options that Pittsburgh has to offer and bring individuals from surrounding boroughs or suburbs to the city to walk the streets and enjoy a meal at a special discounted price.

The Week, celebrated twice a year in August and January, will have its summer event between August 10th and 16th. Pittsburgh Restaurant Week is a chance to try a new restaurant or to visit an old favorite with a great fixed-price menu or other specials.

Some staff members in OIS will use this week as an excuse to visit restaurants they have always wanted to try, but often forget about during the year.

To find participating restaurants, you can visit the Pittsburgh Restaurant Week website or download the list of restaurants.
SEVIS RELEASE 6.21 AND FORM I-20/DS-2019 CHANGES

On June 26, 2015, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) implemented an update to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) deployed as SEVIS Release 6.21. The update provided the following changes:

- Name and email address standardization which introduced new name fields,
- Student and Exchange Visitor U.S. address conversion and validation,
- Revised Form I-20 (F-1) and revised Form DS-2019 (J-1), and
- Improved Search functionality to search on all SEVIS name fields, among other changes.

OIS will provide all F-1 students with an updated Form I-20 sometime during the Fall 2015 semester. Until that time, the Form I-20 which all F-1 students currently possess will be considered valid and acceptable.

What are the main changes I will see in the new Form I-20?

There are several changes. Your information will be more visible, such as the SEVIS #, your school, and field of study. In addition, there will no longer be a bar code or section for a Port of Entry stamp because the government no longer uses these sections. The dependent documents are also more clear for who is the F-2 dependent versus the F-1 student. There are also many minor changes such as having your name pre-printed below where you should sign the form. You can preview the changes on page 8 of this Newsletter.

What are the main changes I will see in the new Form DS-2019?

One minor change was made to the Form DS-2019: the label associated with the name field. It now says “Surname/Primary Name” instead of “Last Name” and “Given Name” instead of “First Name”.

Can I request a new I-20 right now if I just want to get one?

We will not be reprinting new I-20s by request unless you need one for immediate travel or it gets lost. We will be reprinting everyone’s I-20 during the Fall 2015 academic term.

Do I need a new I-20 to get my Driver’s License or Social Security Number?

Because of the I-20 update, the government is asking OIS to reprint I-20s for all students applying for Driver’s Licenses and Social Security Numbers. Once you get your new I-20, you will not need to get another each time you make an application.

Do I need to keep any of my old I-20s?

YES! Always keep all of your I-20s. You will need them in the future any time you seek any benefit from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
Global Career Training Events

JULY & AUGUST 2015

Thursday, July 23rd
CREATE A POWERFUL GLOBAL RESUME or CV
Would you like to turn your resume or CV into a powerful marketing tool to help you with your job search? Join us for a strategic training on how to create a resume or CV that opens doors and gets results! You will learn what to include for your country of interest and what approach to take based on the country’s norms.

Thursday, July 30th
LEVERAGING LINKEDIN WORLDWIDE
Help your global career to move forward as you learn how to get started on LinkedIn; develop a profile that gets attention; Expand your global network, and; Engage with the expansive, global LinkedIn community.

Thursday, August 6th
YOUR PERSONAL PASSPORT CAREER STRATEGY
Are you new to Passport Career or have been using it for a while and are still looking for a job, internship, or other opportunity? Invest one hour of your time to learn how to use Passport Career effectively, efficiently, and strategically based on your career interests! This is a highly interactive training event to help jump-start your global career!

Thursday, August 13th
TAKE YOUR BUSINESS DEGREE/MBA ABROAD!
Companies, nonprofits and governments around the world look for MBA graduates. This strategic training focuses on the strategies and steps to take to find an MBA-related job or internship outside of your home country.

Thursday, August 20th
STRATEGIES FOR TARGETING H1b EMPLOYERS & ALTERNATIVES TO THE H1b
Are you looking for employment in the USA but are not a U.S. citizen or resident? Do you need to find an employer who will sponsor you for a work permit? Thousands of U.S. employers hire people on H1bs each year and other employment visas, but landing an opportunity with special work permit/visa status can be challenging. Included in this training are: Updates on the H1b and unique strategies to network your way into companies that sponsor H1bs. However, the H1b isn’t the only employment visa option that you should consider. We will discuss strategies for employment under alternative visa categories, including the L visa and G visa. Join this updated, strategy-packed training to develop your personal approach for sponsored U.S. employment.

Thursday, August 27th
FINDING JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND CONTRACT WORK WITH THE UN & OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
Have you ever thought about working with the United Nations or The World Bank? These intergovernmental organizations are just a few among dozens of multinational organizations that often seek out people from other countries (non-nationals) to work full-time, as a consultant, or as an intern. There are unique strategies we will share to help you open the door to opportunities at these organizations.

NEW TIMES OFFERED
All global career trainings are offered twice each day to accommodate participants in different time zones:

1st TRAINING TIME:
11:00am Eastern Time
10:00am Central Standard
9:00am Mountain
8:00am Pacific
4:00 pm BST
5:00 pm CEST
11:00pm HKT

2nd TRAINING TIME:
3:00pm Eastern Time
2:00pm Central Standard
1:00pm Mountain
12:00pm Pacific
8:00pm BST
9:00 pm CEST
3:00am HKT

REGISTER ONLINE at www.PassportCareer.com

1. Login to your Passport Career account
2. Click on Webinars
3. Select your preferred time.

SEE YOU THERE!
Little Italy Days started in 2002 to celebrate Bloomfield’s Italian heritage, and create a destination spot for Italian-themed entertainment and food.

Celebrated this year on Thursday August 20, 6:00pm-10:00pm, Friday August 21, noon-10:00pm, Saturday August 22, noon-10:00pm, and Sunday August 23, noon-10:00pm.

The festival’s entertainment includes performances by local artists and bands. There will be a belly dance performance, Lady Gaga impersonator and an exotic Italian car showcase. If you play bocce ball, you can enter a team in the tournament as well. Definitely something for everyone. And, did we mention the food? This festival features several blocks of vendors providing food, games, and activities for the whole family. Top it off with free admission and you have a great way to enjoy one of the last weekends of the summer season.

A great way to check out the Italian heritage of the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Bloomfield as well as to celebrate the end of summer!

---

OIS’ LITTLE ADDITION: Owen Michael Reinert

On August 1, Melissa Reinert (Immigration Specialist on the Student Team) gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. His name is Owen Michael Reinert and he is Melissa’s second child. Melissa and Owen are going to spend the next few months enjoying their time together, but hopefully they will stop by OIS often to visit. While we miss Melissa very much, we are ecstatic to have another OIS family member!

Melissa will return to OIS in October and we expect to see her office decorated heavily with pictures of Owen!

Congratulations, Reinert Family!
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS — August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Month</strong></td>
<td>She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran &amp; the Arab World, Carnegie Museum of Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Global Pittsburgh First Thursday Happy Hour, 5:30—8 PM, Roland’s Seafood Grill &amp; Bar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>OPT Information Session, 1:30 — 2:30 PM. Register <a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Yoga, 10 AM, Schenley Plaza, FREE. Also offered subsequent Saturdays through Sept 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Restaurant Week highlights the wide-ranging dining options that Pittsburgh has to offer and brings individuals from surrounding boroughs or suburbs to the city to walk the streets and enjoy a meal at a special discounted price.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>OPT Information Session, 1:30 — 2:30 PM. Register <a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-28</td>
<td>Kids' Zoofari, 11 AM—3 PM Daily, Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. Watch animal enrichment activities, ask an animal expert questions, or touch a stingray in the PPG Aquarium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-20</td>
<td>OIS' Student Walk-In Hours Cancelled due to New International Student Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>OIS Closes at 12pm Strategies for Targeting H-1B Employers &amp; Alternatives to the H-1B, Global Career Training Event, offered by Passport Career. Register online at <a href="http://www.passportcareer.com">www.passportcareer.com</a> then click on “Webinars”. More info <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>OIS' Student Walk-In Hours Cancelled due to New Student Convocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>CDPA Events: Power of Personality, 1-2 PM; and Finding Your Career Match, 2-3 PM, WPU Assembly Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) General Information Session, WPU Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>First Day of Fall 2015 Classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Office of International Services

708 William Pitt Union  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
Telephone: 412-624-7120  
Fax: 412-624-7105  
[www.ois.pitt.edu](http://www.ois.pitt.edu)  
ois@pitt.edu

Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday,  
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

© 2015 Office of International Services  
Newsletter is edited and published by the Office of International Services. If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please contact OIS at ois@pitt.edu.

OIS Staff, 2014. Absent from photo is Debra Prvanovic.