OIS Has a New Immigration Specialist!
Meet Jessica Hartman

I am a farm girl from rural Pennsylvania. Growing up in a rural community, I was fortunate to be exposed to people from different countries and cultures through my parents’ jobs and general friendly nature. I was never on an airplane until the age of 20, but since that time I have had the opportunity to study, travel, and work abroad many times. I was actually a student worker at OIS when I was an Undergraduate at Pitt studying Religion and Literature, so returning to the office several years later feels natural. I am told I have too many hobbies some of which include: sewing, knitting, baking, and reading.

Jessica will be an Immigration Specialist on the Employment Team and we are very excited to have her join us!

Are You an International Post-Doc?

Get involved in the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association (UPPDA), a volunteer organization run by Post-Docs for Post-Docs! One of UPPDA goals is to facilitate social interactions among Post-Docs. UPPDA in collaboration with OIS recently organized a Happy Hour Networking Event for International and Domestic Post-Docs at the University Club. If you are interested in learning more about UPPDA, getting involved and receiving information about UPPDA upcoming events please email UPPDA@pitt.edu.

Afternoon Tea: An African Cultural Experience
February 27th 2014, 12-2 pm, WPU Dining Room A

Join OIS and the Pan-African Graduate and Professional Student Union (PanAF) for Afternoon Tea. Experience African culture through a sample of delicious traditional East and West African snacks and hot beverages, as well as through an eclectic mix of African music from across the continent. Also learn about opportunities to study abroad in African countries through the Pitt African Studies program, and much more!
Important Update about 2013 Tax Information

Any individual present in the US in F-1 or J-1 status (and their dependents) during any part of 2013 must submit at least one tax form even if he/she did not work and did not earn income. The required form is Form 8843, titled “Statement for Exempt Individuals and Individuals With a Medical Condition.” If you earned income during 2013, you must also prepare US Federal, Pennsylvania State (and/or the state in which you lived/worked) and Local Tax Forms.

If you receive “important tax documents” or documents numbered “W-2”, “1042-S” or “1098-T”, keep these documents until you are ready to prepare your tax paperwork for 2013. Form 1042-S for the 2013 calendar year may not be distributed to you until mid-March 2014. You should NOT prepare your tax return until you receive your 1042-S. Visit OIS' Tax Website for definitions of these forms.

OIS provides a great deal of information on our Tax Website including a table to determine if you are a resident or nonresident for tax purposes. Your residency status for tax purposes may be different from your immigration status. Additionally, we have forms, definition of filing requirements, and information about SPRINTAX, a software designed to assist nonresidents for tax purposes to prepare their federal tax returns and Forms 8843. More information about accessing SPRINTAX will be provided in the March issue of Global Perspective or online here. Access to SPRINTAX will be available by March 1, 2014 or before.

Tax Assistance and Resources:

OIS staff cannot provide in-person assistance with ANY tax questions, including printing or explaining forms. Staff in OIS are not tax professionals. Please see the website for recommendations for tax professionals.

Questions about Tax Requirements for Nonresidents for Tax Purposes?

Visit OIS's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of the Taxes website.

Deadline for mailing all tax documents for the 2013 year is April 15, 2014.
Experience America, OIS’ continuing orientation program, is designed for international graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The program will offer information and topics to help individuals understand better and feel more comfortable participating in American culture during their time at Pitt.

The events are also a way to meet other international students / postdoctoral fellows.

An expert or guest speaker will provide a presentation on the topic of the month.

**Dependents are more than welcome to attend these events!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Politics and the Electoral College</strong></td>
<td>This session will provide a brief description of the American Political System, Election Day and the Electoral College.</td>
<td>13 Feb 2014, 12:30—2 PM</td>
<td>William Pitt Union, Room 548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation: Buses, Bikes and Bipedal Locomotion</strong></td>
<td>Getting around in Pittsburgh can be challenging and dangerous if travelers don’t take the proper precautions! Learn about steps you can take to stay safe!</td>
<td>06 Mar 2014, 4—5 PM</td>
<td>William Pitt Union, Room 548</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>American Baseball and Fun Summer Activities</strong></td>
<td>A survey of the most important rules and keys to speaking smartly about baseball in Pittsburgh. Strategies and ideas for fun summer activities in Pittsburgh will also be discussed.</td>
<td>03 Apr 2013, 12:30—2 PM</td>
<td>William Pitt Union, Room 548</td>
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For your FREE ticket or more information: [http://www.ois.pitt.edu/new-here/experience-america/](http://www.ois.pitt.edu/new-here/experience-america/)
## Understanding Volunteering versus Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Unpaid</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volunteering</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Visit sick kids at Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>• Recommended that it is part of an established volunteer program.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Help walk dogs at animal shelter</td>
<td>• No authorization is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Internship</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>• Summer internship with Amazon.com or</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>• Data Collection for your dissertation</td>
<td>• Authorization is required for paid position (i.e. OPT, CPT, AT) unless on-campus at Pitt.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Academic Year internship with Ernst &amp; Young</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Summer Internship at the UN or a Law firm</td>
<td>• Discuss unpaid off-campus internships with OIS if you are concerned that you need authorization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-Campus Employment</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>• Graduate Student Researcher in Department</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>• Authorization is required for paid position (i.e. OPT, CPT, AT) unless on-campus at Pitt.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Student Worker in Library</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Current F-1 students do not require authorization.</td>
<td>• Current J-1 students need additional authorization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer Lab Monitor</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Current J-1 students do not require authorization.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Off-Campus Employment</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>• Research Associate at UPMC</td>
<td>Illegal – violation of US Labor Laws</td>
<td>• Authorization is required for paid position (i.e. OPT, CPT, AT).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Establish own Business</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Work must be related to field of study, cannot accept other work (i.e. cashier at Panera, barista at Starbucks).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Position at BNY Mellon</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lab Technician without payment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Adjunct faculty at Community College of Allegheny County</td>
<td></td>
<td>• “Helping out” at a restaurant</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

“Paid” indicates that compensation in some form is offered in exchange for services provided. Compensation may include money, tuition waiver, fees, books, supplies, room/housing costs, food, or any other benefit.

*Consider source of paycheck. UPMC is NOT considered an on-campus employer.

Review OIS’ website for more information about eligibility and application process for OPT, CPT, AT and on-campus employment authorization for J-1 students.
If not, check out Alternative Break, a program which offers community based projects that include a way to get involved with members of a US community and exposure to the problems, customs and culture of the region in which you are working.

Placements are available with Cumberland Trail in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee; Youth Service Opportunities Project in Washington, D.C. and Habitat for Humanity in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

To receive information about Alternative Break, send an e-mail to Alternative Break » Type “register” in the subject line or visit the Student Volunteer Office page about Alternative Break.
Recently, OIS hosted our annual student worker appreciation lunch, and naturally, I was the person coordinating the food order. Because majority of our student workers are from China, we decided to have Asian cuisine and per Genevieve Cook’s recommendation, we ordered from Sun Penang. Sun Penang is located on at 5829 Forbes Ave. in Squirrel Hill, but will gladly deliver to the Oakland area (which made it very convenient for our lunch event). I was excited to try their take-out and was happy to hear from several of our student workers that they have eaten there before and really like it! For my lunch, I started my meal with an order of the hot & sour soup, which had great flavor and a good amount of tofu and egg. Soup is necessary at this time of year with the cold weather! For my entrée, I had the basil eggplant with white rice. I absolutely love Chinese eggplant and my meal was delicious with a variety of other vegetables and full of flavor from Thai basil leaves. I would definitely recommend this dish! Our lunch was a great event and I am glad to have discovered a new takeout restaurant for the future!
The Office of International Services cordially invites all H-1B visa holders at the University of Pittsburgh to...

~ H-1B Breakfast Connection ~

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
8:30 – 10:00 am
***

University Club – Gold Room
123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Register at: https://h1bbreakfast-march11.eventbrite

This gathering will serve as a time for new and existing H-1B visa holders to get general updates and ask questions related to their immigration status. All members of the OIS Employment Team will be in attendance.

Topics of discussion to include:
✓ General H-1B updates
✓ Permanent residency information
✓ International travel
✓ 1-94 automation
✓ Extensions, Transfers (within Pitt)
✓ Q & A

A light breakfast buffet will be served.

Register at: https://h1bbreakfast-march11.eventbrite
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

2nd – Groundhog’s Day! (6 more weeks of winter?)
7th – Olympics start!
8th – Chinese Spring Festival Celebration
9th – Somali Bantu Cultural Celebration (1-5 pm, O’Hara)
13th – Experience America Event – America Politics
14th – Valentine’s Day (ISB Presentation & Grad Student Advisor Meeting)
17th – President’s Day
18th-19th – Spring Career Fair
27th – PanAf Cultural Event

March

6th – Experience America Event – Transportation in Pittsburgh
9th – Daylight Saving time begins at 2:00 am
9th – 16th – Spring Break!
14th – University closed for spring recess
24th – Fall enrollment begins
28th – Student Affairs Auction

ONGOING

- Every Friday OIS hosts two sessions on Optional Practical Training (OPT) at 1PM and 3PM. Registration is required and can be done on the OIS website.

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www.ois.pitt.edu
OIS@pitt.edu

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

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