Appointments with the Student Team

In an effort to better serve you, our office has modified slightly the process by which you can schedule an appointment with the student team. Appointments will still be scheduled by clicking the “Schedule an Appointment” button at the bottom of the OIS website. However, instead of being required to choose the specialist with whom you want to meet and then finding available times, you will now be able to select the best available time for your schedule. As a reminder, all members of the Student Team are equipped to assist you with questions you have about your immigration status.

If you would prefer to visit OIS during Student Team Walk-In hours for assistance on a quick issue, you can do so Monday—Thursday between 1 PM and 4 PM.

Thanks and have a wonderful Spring Break!

OIS Student Team: Sara Jones, Melissa Reinert and Richard Sherman

Arabic Coffee and Tea Party

You are cordially invited to the Arabic Coffee and Tea party on Wednesday April, 2 2014 from 11:30 to 2:30 pm on WPU Patio & Lawn (Rain Location: WPU Lower Lounge).

The event, co-organized by Saudi Students House and Office of International Services, is intended to enrich your knowledge about Saudi culture and provide you with first-hand experience of Saudi culture.

We will serve traditional Arabic coffee, desserts, and have your name transcribed in Arabic. Please come experience a little bit of Arabic culture at Pitt!
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/working) 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 2012. Form 1042-S for the 2013 calendar year may not be distributed to you until mid-March 2013. 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 tax requirements.

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.
Did you know we have an African Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh?

The African Studies Program offers graduates and undergraduates an opportunity to focus their course work on topics regarding the African continent whether you are studying social work, engineering, health, or any major you can also become an expert on issues in Africa with little or no extra coursework! When you graduate you receive a certificate in African Studies which tells future employers that you have a global background and are ready for any issues that come your way!

Get Involved!

There are many opportunities to get involved in the African Studies Program. We have monthly discussions on topics about Africa called “Let’s Talk Africa”. These discussions are a great way to learn about issues going on in Africa and meet people with similar interests in Africa. There are also several clubs on campus that you can get involved in like the African Music and Dance Club, African Student Organization (undergraduates), and the PanAfrican Graduate Professional Student Union. Pitt also offers three different African Languages: Arabic, Swahili, and Yoruba for those of you who love learning languages and culture. You could also go on one of our Pitt study abroad programs in South Africa, Tanzania, and Ghana. These are great ways to add African expertise to your resume. Lastly, we have many partnerships with the African community in the Pittsburgh region. These organizations serve as great resources for students interested in learning about Africa. Students can intern or volunteer with these institutions to support their work as they also develop their own profiles and portfolios in cross-cultural understanding.

Would you like to volunteer in the Pittsburgh Community and make more friends?

The African Studies Program also goes into local schools and organizations and teaches about Africa. High school students and community members come to Pitt to learn about Africa as well. We are always looking for students to volunteer and we would be happy if you would like to participate with us! You do not have to be a certificate student to volunteer you just need an interest in Africa and an excitement to share with others.

Connect with us! We want to get to know you!

For new international students interested in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of Africa, we encourage you to visit our office, to learn more about what we do, and what the program has to offer to enrich your learning experience at Pitt. Our alumni are scattered throughout Africa and the United States in the service of their respective communities and are actively making a difference through their work. Visit our website at www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa/ to read about our activities, and the impact our students are having in the global society and stay informed of all our events.
Alison’s Zappa-tite: **Oishii Bento**

This month’s edition of Zappa-tite I am featuring Oishii Bento, a great little Korean/Japanese restaurant located at 119 Oakland Ave. I was excited to try a ‘bento box’, as this is a common Japanese meal that is a single portion take-out boxed lunch. I absolutely love this concept because you are able to sample several different foods separated out in a cute rectangular container.

For my lunch, I chose the tofu teriyaki bento box. Each bento box is served with white rice, noodle salad, pickles, 2 fried dumplings, and choice of side (I chose kimchi). I thought every item in my box was delicious and the serving size was a great portion! The tofu was cooked with just the right amount of sauce and had a nice wholesome flavor with mixed vegetables. Oishii Bento is very popular, so make sure to plan ahead when ordering. There is a small seating section upstairs, but I think that Oishii Bento would be ideal for take-out. They also offer rice and udon noodle bowls and sushi. I would definitely recommend for your next lunch in Oakland!

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**Daylight Saving Time REMINDER**

On Sunday, March 9th, don’t forget to set your clocks ahead of time by one hour. This is an American custom where in the spring, we set our clock forward. This will happen at 2:00 am on Sunday morning.
Get Involved Pittsburgh—

RELAY FOR LIFE

What is Relay for Life? Relay for Life is a fundraising walk benefitting the American Cancer Society. The walk is an organized, overnight event where participating teams will walk around the designated track. Teams will set fundraising goals to raise money to support cancer research and awareness. The event is an opportunity to honor cancer survivors and work towards a great cause.

Where is Relay for Life? There are multiple locations for this community event. This year, the University of Pittsburgh will be hosting a Relay for Life event on Saturday, April 5th starting at 12:00 pm. The track will be on the Cathedral of Learning lawn.

How can I get involved in this event? There are several ways to get involved in Relay for Life. Interested people can sign up to volunteer, join an existing team, and even start a new team. More information about these options can be found on the Relay for Life website. Also, donations can be made to help support the event’s cause on the website.
UNIQUE MOVIE THEATER EXPERIENCES IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh has some wonderful and unique movie theater experiences that can be fun for an individual, a couple, friends, or a family. Here are some of the most distinct experiences you can find in Pittsburgh.

**Classic Movies at Regent Square (Regent Square Theater)**
The Regent Square Theater shows classic films every Sunday night. Each month has a different theme and all of the movies shown that month share a genre, director, actor, or some other characteristic. Many of the films played have been newly restored. The films are $9 for adults and $7 for students and seniors, but certain movies are shown for free throughout the year (such as It’s a Wonderful Life in December). All shows are Sundays at 8pm. (1035 S. Braddock Ave, Regent Square)

**Breakfast and a Movie (Hollywood Theater)**
Every month, you can enjoy a light brunch and a classic movie on a Sunday at the Hollywood Theater as a part of their Breakfast and a Movie series. You must order your brunch ticket by the Thursday night before the screening, but you can always see the movie by purchasing your ticket that day. Doors open for the brunch at 10:50am and the film starts at 11:30am. Tickets are $15 for the brunch and the film or $7 for just the movie. (1449 Potomac Avenue, Dormont)

**Cine Brunch (Oaks Theater)**
Cine Brunch is another series that provides brunch with a classic movie. This brunch is catered by the famous Oakmont Bakery and each film is proceeded by an introduction given by a staff member of the Oakmont Carnegie Library. Again, you must purchase your brunch tickets ahead of time, by 4pm the night before the event. These showings are much less frequent than others listed on this list, so be sure to check their website for the next showing. (310 Allegheny River Blvd, Oakmont)
Sensory Friendly Films (AMC Loew’s Waterfront)
AMC Theaters host monthly “Sensory Friendly Films” at their theaters for people affected by Autism. The theater is set-up to have the lights dimmed (but not down all the way), the sound a bit quieter, and children are encouraged to walk around the theater as needed to feel comfortable in their surroundings. This program provides a safe and accepting environment for individuals with these special needs. The films shown are mostly for children in order to have the broadest audience able to see the films. (300 West Waterfront Dr, West Homestead)

Met Opera Nights at the Movies (Select Cinemark Theaters)
Want to see a Metropolitan Opera, but don’t want to drive to New York City this weekend? No problem! Cinemark theaters feature a few showings of Met Operas a month so you can enjoy the opera for a more affordable prices, but still see the same opera stars you would at the Metropolitan! You will also get to see special features such as interviews with the cast and crews and behind the scenes looks at the productions. Tickets are $24 for an adult, but you can get discounted tickets if you purchase more than one of the shows in the Opera series. (Check website for the closet participating theater.)

Catch a Drive-In (Dependable Drive-In)
Open all 12 months of year, the Dependable Drive-in is the perfect choice for families with young children who aren’t the best at being quiet in a regular theater. You can let your little ones sleep in the back or talk as much as you want in the privacy of your own car. Every movie is shown as a double feature, so you also get two movies for the price of one. In the summer, you can roll your windows down, bring your lawn chairs, or open your hatchback to have a more outdoors movie experience. (549 Moon Clinton Road, Moon Township)
SUMMER ENROLLMENT

Will You Need Reduced Course Load Authorization?

During the regular Fall and Spring Terms, full time enrollment is 9 credits for grad students and 12 credits for undergrads. So what are the requirements for Summer Term? In the Summer Term, you can chose to take as many or as few classes as you like, unless you meet the following criteria. In these situations, you will need to submit a Reduced Course Load Request (through My OIS) for the Summer Term. **This Request must be submitted before you drop below full time.**

- This is your last term at Pitt in your current program.
  - For example, you will be completing all course requirements by the end of August but do not plan to register full time. OR
  - For example, you will be starting a new degree program at Pitt in the fall and you are taking classes in the summer to complete your current program.

- Summer 2014 is your first term on a new I-20 or DS-2019 and you will not enroll full time. **This includes changing degree levels.**

- You will not be taking classes in the fall. If you are planning to take a leave of absence for the fall term (and only the fall term), you should request an RCL.

Please remember that your Advisor will need to complete a portion of your Reduced Course Load Request, therefore you should either submit your request before your Advisor leaves for the summer or make sure they will be available when you submit your request. For more info about RCL, visit OIS’ [website](#).
INVITATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the Office of International Education

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Soccer Tournament**

**Date:** Sunday, April 27, 2014

**Estimated Time:** 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Cost:** $200

(Lunch, snacks, drinks provided)

**Please note:** Application and registration fee must be sent by April 11

**Location:** Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Miller Stadium, 670 South 11th Street, Indiana, PA – 15705

Office of International Education
B25 Delaney Hall
920 Grant Street
Indiana, PA 15705

Phone: 724-357-2295
Fax: 724-357-2514
**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

19th – Jess Hartman’s Birthday!

24th – Fall enrollment begins

28th – Student Affairs Auction

**April**

3rd – Experience America Event – American Baseball

12th – Richard Sherman’s Birthday!

15th – Taxes due by today to IRS

18th – Last day of Spring classes

21st – 26th – Finals Week

27th – Residence halls close

**ONGOING**

Every Friday in March & April OIS hosts two sessions on Optional Practical Training (OPT) starting at 1:30 PM & 3PM. You can register for the OPT Info Session here.

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**Office of International Services**

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

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