## 2014 Tax Information

Any individual present in the US in F-1 or J-1 status (and their dependents) during any part of 2014 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 2014, 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 2014. Form 1042-S for the 2014 tax 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.

### 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.

OIS has purchased a license agreement for Sprintax (TaxBack, Inc.) for Pitt international students and scholars who are nonresidents for tax purposes. We distributed information about accessing this software on February 18. If you did not receive this email, please email OIS for further instructions.

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. We also provide some information about choosing a tax professional or some help for residents for tax purposes.

### Questions about Tax Requirements for Nonresidents for Tax Purposes?

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

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**Deadline for mailing all tax documents for the 2014 year is April 15, 2015.**
GREEN SPEAKEASY PRESENTATIONS

University of Pittsburgh

GREEN speakeasy

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – University Club, Library

MARCH 16, 2015
Marcellus Shale, Sustainability Science and the PA Supreme Court

Bernie Goldstein
Former Dean, Graduate School of Public Health
Professor Emeritus, Environmental and Occupational Health

APRIL 14, 2015
Why Is It So Hard to Find Truly Green Products, Yet So Easy to Find Green-Washed Products?

Eric Beckman
Bevier Professor of Engineering
Codirector, Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost

Join us for light snacks and free first drinks!
All are welcome to attend.

RSVP required at:
engineering.pitt.edu/greenspeakeasy
OIS WEBSITE: Resources Section

OIS has added a new section to our website in order to help provide you with a more comprehensive list of the resources at your disposal. You can find this area of our website in the main heading bar (shown circled in yellow below). There are different categories of Resources to try and make your navigation as simple as possible. If you know of resources that did not appear on our site that would benefit our international community, please email the information to Kati Von Lehman (kvonlehman@pitt.edu).

Resources

While you are part of the University of Pittsburgh community, we want you to be able to find everything you need to be successful both inside your classroom, office, or lab and outside in your daily life. With this mission in mind, we have created the following categories of Resources to best facilitate your needs.

- Pitt Resources for Students
- Pitt Resources for Everyone
- Local Community Resources
- Government Agencies

If you find that there are any resources that we are missing, please email your suggestions to OIS@pitt.edu.
Alison’s Zappa-rite: Pittsburgh Popcorn Co.

With this frigid weather, all I want to do is curl up on the couch with a huge bowl of popcorn and watch movies. Popcorn is definitely one of my favorite snack foods. For that reason, I decided to write about a unique place to our city – Pittsburgh Popcorn! There are multiple locations around the city, but I of course went to the Oakland location at 3710 Fifth Ave (next to Rita’s Italian Ice). Pittsburgh popcorn offers a variety of flavored popcorn, all made fresh daily in the store. There are classic flavors that they will always have available, such as Wisconsin Cheddar and Crunchy Carmel (both amazing). Every week they will rotate 3 special flavors, only available for that week. The Flavor of the Week items will always feature one spicy, one savory, and one sweet. What is really awesome for those indecisive individuals (like myself) is that you can sample as many flavors as you want! Since I was writing about my experience, I decided to sample all three Flavors of the Week. The spicy flavor was Jalapeno Poppercorn, which had a nice kick, but not too much to handle. The savory flavor was Zesty Ranch, which was probably my favorite of the three because of its light ranch seasoning coating with a slight hint of butter. The sweet flavor was Thin Mint, which I was not a huge fan of mint on popcorn, but I also don’t like Thin Mints, so take that with a grain of salt. With much deliberation, I bought a small bag (which is equivalent to 6 cups) of the Sweet ‘n Salty Kettle. This flavor is definitely addicting because of the mix of sweet and salty, but is a light taste and not too buttery. Needless to say I happily finished the bag that afternoon! I would highly recommend Pittsburgh Popcorn if you are looking for an afternoon treat or something to take home for movie night. 😊
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 Friday, April 10th starting at 7pm. The event will take place at the Cost Sports Center on the Robinson Street Extension behind Trees Hall.

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.

STEM Students Enjoyed Research and Chinese New Year Event

On Thursday, February 19th, librarians Judy Brink, Anne Schwan, Margarete Bower, John Barnett and Xiuying Zou hosted “Research Skills Workshop for Graduate Students in STEM / Chinese New Year Celebration” in Benedum Hall. With a very full agenda, and fortified with a variety of Asian snacks, coffee and tea, twenty-nine students listened as our colleagues presented on specific areas of interest to graduate students in STEM fields, such as Scopus, Web of Science, Reaxys, Google Scholar, EndNote, Mendeley, East Asian Gateway Services and other sources, and how they can be useful for their research. Beth Newborg from The Writing Center at Pitt offered suggestions about how to write better papers, theses, and dissertations. John Barnett from the Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing demonstrated D-Scholarship, Altmetrics, and the Open Access Fee Fund. Sara Jones from the Office of International Services was also present at the event. For a copy of the handout detailing the event, please email Judy Brink, Head of the Engineering Library. Thanks to all who attended and presented!
UCIS EVENT: Iran Refracted

Iran Refracted:

Perspectives on Iranian Culture and Society

Tuesday, March 17th, 5:00 PM
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium
Followed by a reception

Iran boasts one of the globe’s oldest civilizations. Persia is simultaneously a unique culture and the crossroads of many linguistic, confessional, and ethnic groups. American media view Iran almost exclusively through a political lens; how would we talk about Iran if we were not to focus on politics?

Anahita Firooz Rady
Writer and lecturer; former producer, National Iranian Television; author of In the Walled Garden.

Dr. Ali Masalehdan
CEO of Masimex, a Pittsburgh medical and laboratory equipment and supplies firm.

Nazila Fathi
New York Times reporter in Iran for nine years; author of The Lonely War.

Moderator: Dr. Luke Peterson, UCIS Visiting Professor in Contemporary International Issues

Sponsored by the Kabak Endowment Fund and the UCIS Endowed Visiting Professorship in Contemporary International Issues, with support from the Global Studies Center. Additional information and questions: please contact Dr. Thomas Allen at tfaz@pitt.edu.
“Why Gender Matters to Sustainability: Engaging the Public in a Meaningful Conversation”

Maria L. Cruz-Torres, Associate Professor and cultural anthropologist
Arizona State University

Monday, March 30, 2015 • 6 – 7:30 p.m. • 324 Cathedral of Learning

This lecture addresses the challenges of assessing the interrelationship between gender and sustainability. It focuses on the manner in which a gender analysis can provide important insights to understand the roles of households and communities in creating long-term strategies conducive to more sustainable livelihoods. It also discusses how processes such as economic development and global environmental change affect people at the local level. Drawing from specific case studies from Latin America, Dr. Cruz-Torres will discuss the complex daily struggles, failures, and successes of people; and how these impede or stimulate a path towards sustainability.

Sponsored by the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program and the Provost’s Sustainability Initiative
Co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Center for Latin American Studies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT GSWS.PITT.EDU
SUMMER ENROLLMENT

Will You Need Reduced Course Load Authorization?
During the regular Fall and Spring Terms, full time enrollment is 9 credits for graduate students and 12 credits for undergraduate students. So what are the requirements for Summer Term? For most students, you can choose to take as many or as few classes as you like during the Summer Term. However, if the following criteria are true, you will need to submit a Reduced Course Load (RCL) Request (through My OIS) for the Summer Term. This Request must be approved before you drop below full time enrollment.

- 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 2015 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.
UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY: Current Exhibit

Exhibition^3: Documenta 5, Harald Szeemann, the Artists

Immerse yourself in the hyper reality of the 1972 exhibition Documenta 5, meet the artists that filled its halls, and delve into the career of the most successful and innovative curator of all time, Harald Szeemann.

24 February - 20 March 2015
Opening reception, February 24th 6pm
Public hours: Mon - Fri 10 am - 4 pm
University Art Gallery
University of Pittsburgh, Frick Fine Arts Building

Curated by Professor Terry Smith, Isabelle Chartier, and the students from the Museum Studies Exhibition Seminar

ICI
Hans Kiefer, Documenta 5 is circulated by Independent Curators International (ICI), New York. This exhibition has been curated by David Flatzler. The exhibition is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the ICI Board of Trustees, and ICI Benefactors Barbara and John Robinson.

For information: magnell@pitt.edu or 412-648-2423
Like us on Facebook! University Art Gallery - University of Pittsburgh
www.haa.pitt.edu/art-gallery

CDPA EVENTS

CREATIVE CAREERS NETWORKING EVENT
March 24th from 6:30-8pm
O’Hara Dining Hall
Meet alumni in creative fields

SENIOR BOOT CAMP
March 25th from 6-8pm
William Pitt Union Ballroom
Graduating? Get assistance on job searching, online branding, and more! FREE Pizza and padfolios will be provided. Register through FutureLinks under events and workshops.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS — March

All Month  Visit the Stress Free Zone. Walk-in for Mindfulness stations or attend a yoga or THRIVE Class. Schedule here. More info here. Free for all students! No appointment necessary!

8-15  Spring Recess for students (no classes). University offices and buildings remain open.

10  Priority OPT Information Session, 1:30 — 3:00 PM. Register here!

13  University’s observance of Spring Break (University, including OIS, closed)

17  Google Like a Scholar, 4:30 PM, Presented by the University Library System, Register here! Other Great ULS Events here!

17-19  Blogging Workshop: Judith Torrea, award-winning independent investigative blogger, journalist and author, More information, hosted at City of Asylum, 6 PM — 8 PM, FREE but space is limited. Please email Rachel Webber to reserve your spot.

20  OPT Information Session, 1:30 PM. Register here!

20  Lecture: International Health in East Asia, presented by Michael Sy Liu, and sponsored by the Asian Studies Center, 4 PM, 4127 Posvar Hall, via UCIS Events

21  35th Annual Latin American and Caribbean Festival, 12 PM-10 PM, Galleria Posvar Hall, FREE

22  14th Annual Brazil Festival, presented by Brazil Nuts, 1 PM — 5 PM, WPU Assembly Room, via UCIS Events

25  Artful Wednesday — Color Feet, popular alternative band, 12 PM, Nordy’s Place, WPU, FREE

31  Lecture: Folklore, Gender and AIDS in Malawi, presented by Professor Anika Wilson, sponsored by African Studies, Department of Africana Studies and World History Center, 4 PM — 6 PM, 4130 Posvar Hall, via UCIS Events

Office of International Services
708 William Pitt Union
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: 412-624-7120
Fax: 412-624-7105
www.ois.pitt.edu
ois@pitt.edu

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

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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.