Important Travel Information

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“Friendsgiving” Recipe

OIS November Calendar

English Communication Resources

New USCIS Form

OIS Advisory Board—Applications Now Open!

November Photo Contest
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Office of International Services (OIS)

708 William Pitt Union

ois.pitt.edu

Walk in hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 1-4 PM

Do you have ideas for the *Global Perspective* or know a student who deserves to be featured? Email us at ois@pitt.edu!

Cover: *Heinz Memorial Chapel*
There are lots of English Language Resources at and around Pitt for anyone looking to improve their English skills. Here are some great options:

- Asian Studies Center offers language partners, to apply go to the following link, click “Application” and fill out the information: http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/academics/language-partners

- Carnegie Library offers “Let’s Speak English” classes at both the Carnegie and Squirrel Hill Branches, check out the following website for upcoming times: https://www.carnegielibrary.org/event/lets-speak-english-134/

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit offers free Adult ESL classes, for more information email this address: info@aiu3.net

- Pittsburgh Language Exchange is a website that offers opportunities to meet up for one-on-one conversations. You will need to specify that you want to learn English and also exercise caution because anyone can participate in the program so we do not know how the participants are vetted: http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/city/Pittsburgh__United_States.asp

- The English Language Institute at Pitt offers part time courses for a fee if you are in need of some structured, more formal training, you can check out prices and schedules at: http://pre.eli.pitt.edu/english-second-language-esl-programs-study
Spring Refunds Begin January 2

Financial aid for spring term begins posting to students’ accounts on Monday, January 1.

Refunding of credit balances begins on Tuesday, January 2. Make sure you are enrolled in eRefunds before January 2 so we know which bank account to deposit your refund to.

Questions about eRefunds? Contact the Student Payment Center. Questions about your financial aid? Contact the aid office.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you will travel outside of the United States during Thanksgiving Recess, or Winter Recess, make sure to check page 2 of your I-20, or page 1 of your DS-2019, before you leave.

If the signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 will be more than 12 months old (or 6 months old if you are on OPT) on the date that you return to the United States, you will need a new travel signature from OIS before you leave.

You can receive a travel signature during Walk-In hours (Mon., Wed., Thurs., 1PM to 4PM), or by dropping off your I-20/DS-2019 at OIS’ front desk. You can pick up your signed I-20/DS-2019 the next business day after 1 pm.
Do your international travel plans include a visa interview?

By Deb Prvanovic, Assistant Director

If you will be interviewing for a J-1 or H-1B employment visa to return to your position at Pitt following international travel, please read continue reading. While OIS has an extensive checklist for preparing for visa renewal interviews (see http://ois.pitt.edu/wp-content/uploads/TravelInformation.pdf), I recommend the additional documentation to help facilitate “administrative processing” (i.e. security checks).

If you are in a research position or any position related to health sciences, hard sciences or IT, please obtain the following: CV of your Principal Investigator/Supervisor, a letter from your PI/Supervisor explaining the benign nature of your research in simple, layman’s terms and your CV. Additional documentation that may be helpful, if you have it due to employment requirements would include: Child Protection Clearances and/or criminal record checks.

Submission of these documents to the consular officer may not be required and may not even speed up the administrative processing, but if you have them in hand already you can at least respond quickly to the written notice indicating a temporary visa refusal. The consular officer should supply this document indicating that your “application is being refused under section 221g of the INA”. The written notice should state what additional evidence the consular officer is requesting to continue processing your visa application.

Should you be subjected to 221g, please inform both OIS and your employing department. The administrative processing review may take anywhere from 14 to 60 days depending on the backlog and how extensive the security check is for your application.
Over the past few decades, the days following Thanksgiving have become holidays themselves, with the Friday after Thanksgiving known as “Black Friday.” This holiday is considered the best day of the year for shopping, especially Christmas shopping. Almost all stores have major Black Friday sales and crowds of people line up as early as midnight to be the first ones to the discounts! Most people aren’t crazy enough to stand in line for 5 hours, of course, but millions of people across the US participate in Black Friday for the amazing sales. (My fiancé and I bought our engagement ring on Black Friday for a 70% discount!) If you do plan to go shopping on Black Friday, beware of the huge crowds and crowded parking lots!

Once online shopping became more popular, the following Monday became known as “Cyber Monday” which is the same as Black Friday, but only for online shopping sites like Amazon.

Many Americans became upset with the growing popularity of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, saying that it goes against the whole point of Thanksgiving and the holiday season, when you should be thankful for what you have and spend time with friends and family instead of shopping. Due to this backlash people established “Giving Tuesday” which is a day to give money to charitable organizations and volunteer, rather than spending money on yourself! If you would like more information about organizations to give to head to givingtuesday.org.
New USCIS Form: Revised Version of the I-765

The I-765 ("Application for Employment Authorization") form is for foreign nationals who are eligible to work, to request employment authorization in the United States. USCIS has updated this form and beginning on December 4th, 2017, USCIS will only accept the revised version of the I-765 form, dated “07/17/17.” Up until December 3rd, 2017, either form (the new or the old) will be accepted.

This new form includes fields to apply for a Social Security number (SSN) or a replacement SSN card without visiting a Social Security Administration (SSA) office. Moving forward, applicants who receive their approved Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) from USCIS should receive their Social Security card from SSA within the following two weeks. These changes do not change the process time for work authorizations and completing the fields to apply for a SSN will not impact the USCIS processing times.

As a reminder, it is still possible to apply for a new or replacement SSN card in person at the local SSA office.
OIS ADVISORY BOARD

Applications now open!

OIS is putting together a joint student, scholar, and faculty/staff advisory board which will serve the following functions:

- Be an accessible and visible resource for the university’s international community
- Advocate for improved OIS services, resources, and processes for the university’s international community
- Foster communication regarding critical information from each member unit that will impact the lives of the university’s international students and scholars
- Promote and contribute to OIS initiatives

Selected members will receive recognition on the OIS website and in *The Global Perspective*, as well as a certificate presented at an annual Spring Banquet.

Eligibility:

- You must be able to attend all Advisory Board meetings (3–4 per academic year), including the first meeting in the second week of February 2018.
- You must engage and participate within the Advisory Board
- You must be able to serve on the Advisory Board for the 2018–2019 Academic Year

**HOW TO APPLY**

**Scholars:** Complete the application here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q7G5ZVL](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q7G5ZVL)

**Students:** Complete the application here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8M8ZT6](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8M8ZT6)

**Faculty/Staff:** Email sara.jones@pitt.edu with a brief statement of interest

Applications are due December 1st, 2017
“Friendsgiving” Recipe!

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November every year. For those who celebrate, the day is spent with family giving thanks for everything that has happened over the past year while eating LOTS of food. Oftentimes, people celebrate with their friends in the days before or after the actual day of Thanksgiving. This is called *friendsgiving*. Friendsgiving is usually done “pot luck” style meaning everyone brings one dish and then there is a variety of food for everyone to share. Below is a recipe for an easy, classic side dish you can make to impress all your friends!

**Green Bean Casserole**

**Ingredients:**
1 can of condensed cream of mushroom soup
½ cup of milk
1 teaspoon of soy sauce
Black pepper
4 cups cooked cut green beans
1 1/3 cup of “fried onion strips” (recipe from Campbell’s soup)

**Directions:**
Step 1
Stir the soup, milk, soy sauce, black pepper, beans and 2/3 cup onions in a 1 1/2-quart casserole dish.

Step 2
Bake at 350°F. for 25 minutes or until the bean mixture is hot and bubbling. Stir the bean mixture. Sprinkle with the remaining onions.

Step 3
Bake for 5 minutes or until the onions are golden brown.

Remove and Serve!
The weather is getting colder, and it’s the perfect time to spend a Friday night cuddled up with a blanket, bowl of popcorn, and a movie. Here are some recommendations:

**NETFLIX**
- The Nightmare Before Christmas
- Stranger Things
- Parks and Recreation
- Moana
- The Office

**HULU**
- Iron Man
- This Is Us
- Seinfeld
- Jaws
- Modern Family

**AMAZON PRIME**
- Dirty Dancing
- Indiana Jones
- The Man in the High Castle
- The Italian Job
With houses dating back to 1778, Squirrel Hill is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. No one really knows for sure, but people believe that the name “Squirrel Hill” was given by Native Americans in the area due to the large number of gray squirrels.

Squirrel Hill is a traditionally Jewish neighborhood, but is home to some of the most diverse cuisine in Pittsburgh. Aiello’s and Mineo’s have a historic rivalry for who makes the best pizza, so try them both and choose for yourself!

There is plenty to do other than eat along the “upstreet” of Murray and Forbes Avenues in Squirrel Hill. The Manor is one of the oldest and best movie theatres in the city, so grab a drink at their bar and watch one of their new selections! Music fans can’t miss Jerry’s Records, which was named one of Rolling Stone’s top record stores in the USA.

Grab a bite at one of these fantastic restaurants and see what Squirrel Hill has to offer!

Fun Fact:
There was a violent protest in Squirrel Hill in 1860 that some historians believe should be considered the first skirmish of the American Civil War.

OIS Staff Picks:
- Té Café ($, Sushi)
- Pamela’s Diner ($, American)
- NU Jewish Bistro ($$, American, Kosher)
- Hidden Harbor ($$, Tropical Fusion)
- Gaby et Jules ($$, French)
- Tan Lac Vien ($$, Vietnamese)
- Istanbul Sofra ($$, Turkish)
- Waffallonia ($, Waffles!)
- The Greek Gourmet ($, Greek)
Student Spotlight

What is your favorite holiday?

“Ismail Bayram
Engineering
Turkey

“Christmas”

“Thanksgiving”

Mariana Ceva Alvarez
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Cihan Kaya
School of Medicine
Turkey

“Christmas!”
OIS Photo Contest

What is this a picture of?

For your chance to be entered into a raffle; look at this zoomed in picture of someplace around the Pitt campus.

If you think you know where this picture was taken, email us at ach90@pitt.edu. Even if you aren’t sure, take a guess!

The correct answer from last week’s contest was the Heinz Memorial Chapel Doors. (We also accepted the answer of the Stephen Foster Memorial Doors)

Congratulations to Hussain al Dawood, last month’s winner!
### Dates and Deadlines

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<td><strong>Every Friday</strong></td>
<td>J-1 Scholar Orientation @ OIS, 10:30-Noon</td>
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<td>Nov. 10, Friday</td>
<td>Last day for Spring Term enrollment appointments</td>
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<td>Nov. 10, Friday</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day, classes not cancelled</td>
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<td>Nov. 11, Saturday</td>
<td>Spring Term open enrollment begins</td>
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<td>Nov. 22-26, Wednesday—Sunday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess for students, no classes</td>
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<td>Nov. 23-24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess for faculty and staff</td>
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<td>Nov. 27, Monday</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
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### Experience America Activities:

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<td>Mondays 6:30—7:45PM</td>
<td>$5 Yoga @ Irman Freeman Center for Imagination</td>
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<td>Wednesdays 12:00-1:00PM</td>
<td>Artful Wednesday’s at Nordy’s Place (Pitt Union)</td>
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<td>Sundays 2:00-3:00PM</td>
<td>Arts Celebration at Carnegie Library</td>
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