

Top 3 reasons to register early for Spring Semester 2020!

- **Better Course Selection.**
- **Plan your schedule three months in advance.**
- **No course registration = Risk losing your immigration status!**

All F-1 students are expected to be registered in classes full-time for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. Additionally 9 of your total credits must be considered to be on-campus courses, not online courses.



Traveling outside the U.S. during the Winter?

Don't wait until the last minute, have your I-20 signed now!

If you are planning to travel outside the United States during winter break, please visit ISS office during walk-in advising hours. No appointment needed. You should have your I-20 signed before traveling if your travel signature is before, or close to, the one-year mark on the previous signature.

During the visit, remember to bring your passport, most recent I-94, and current I-20. Our office will review your immigration documents and sign your I-20 for travel.

DON'T FORGET...

- Keep all of your travel documents up-to-date and valid.
- Have your I-20 signed at least one week before you leave the U.S.
- Report any changes of address or personal information to ISS within 10 days.
- Notify ISS if you plan to interrupt or discontinue your studies.

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS)

Our office is located in the lower level of Madison Hall. ISS staff advises international students with F1 visas who are currently enrolled in the College.

Walk-In Advising

**Monday, Wednesday 1-3 pm
Tuesday, Thursday 10- noon.**

Appointments

**Monday, Wednesday 10-noon
Tuesday, Thursday 1-3 pm**

Appointments are available as an alternative to Walk-in Advising for current enrolled F1 students who are not available for the Walk-In advising hours. Please give 48 hour notice. Email: jtang4@csc.edu for an appointment.



Ask an International Student Advisor

Last month we launched our “International Student Success Series: Are you Transfer, Career, or Workforce Ready?.” The events were well received and we had a good turnout. If you missed the event, don’t worry. We will host it again next semester. Here are some quick questions and answers (Q&A) that might help you prepare for your CPT or OPT application.

What is CPT?

CPT is designed to provide eligible students with an opportunity to gain actual employment experience that is “an integral part of an established curriculum.” It allows you to participate in an internship, practicum or cooperative education program, if it is a requirement of your degree. CPT is employer specific and must be done before you graduate. It is not meant to facilitate the creation of special employment opportunities for individual F-1 students.

Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

- You must have been nine months in lawful F-1 status.
- The CPT opportunity must be either: designed to enhance program and endorsed by academic department or it must be necessary to complete graduation requirements; or it must be a co-op,
- It must be an internship, or work study program.

Additional Notes

- You must have a job or internship offer. (Don’t start the job before getting CPT approval; CPT authorization is specific to the training position)
- CPT is authorized for a limited and set period of time and for a specific job at a specific employer.
- CPT can be authorized for either full-time or part-time employment.
- Full-time employment with CPT for a period longer than 12 months **will affect** OPT eligibility.
- If endorsed by academic department, work must be authorized by an international student advisor, not USCIS.

How to Apply: Bring to an international student advisor:

- Completed Form “Curricular Practical Training Recommendation” (Page 2). A note from faculty or staff is not sufficient.
- Print a copy of course registration (Registration requirement)
- An employment offer letter from the prospective employer describing the employment
- Letter from the cooperative education office stating the parameters of the approved co-op position (optional).

What is OPT ?

Optional Practical Training (OPT- Post completion/ after graduation) is an employment benefit for students who have maintained their F1 status.

Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

- Has been enrolled full-time for one full academic year.
Academic year = consecutive fall and spring semester enrollment.
- Is maintaining valid F-1 status, and Is physically present in the U.S.
- Intends to pursue a practical training or employment opportunity directly related to their major field of study.
- Has not been authorized for 365+ days of full-time Curricular Practical Training (CPT) at the same degree level.
- Has not been authorized for 12 months of OPT at the same or higher degree level.

Additional Notes

- More flexible and often easier to obtain than curricular practical training .
- You do not need to have a job offer before you apply for OPT. However, be aware that during your 12-month period, you are only allowed a cumulative total of 90 days of unemployment. You MUST also report your employment to ISS.
- You must be physically present in the U.S. at the time you submit your application to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS).

POST-COMPLETION OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)



OPT step by step process

Preconditions	You must have been lawfully enrolled full-time for one full academic year (9 months) before being eligible for Post-Completion OPT.
Location	You may engage in OPT for any employer for the duration of OPT authorization; as long as the employment qualifies under OPT standards.
Duration	Cumulative maximum of 12 months per educational level. Part-time OPT is deducted from the 12 month limit at 50%. 12 months must be used within 14 months of completion of course of study. Authorization to engage in practical training employment is automatically terminated when you transfer to another school or begin your study at another educational level.
Hours per week	For standard post-completion OPT, a student must be adequately employed to avoid limits on unemployment. Student may not be unemployed for an aggregate of more than 90 days (8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(E)).
Field/level of work	Employment must be directly related to your course of study.
Offer of employment	No offer of employment is required to apply for standard OPT, but you will be expected to work during the OPT EAD validity period. Students on post-completion OPT are limited to a maximum of 90 days of unemployment.
Effect on other work	Prior use of full-time Curricular practical Training for one year or more eliminates eligibility for OPT.
Approval process	Must apply for and receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from USCIS with assistance of DSO before work begins. Apply to P/DSO for OPT recommendation sufficiently in advance to allow the P/DSO to update your SEVIS record with the recommendation prior to your program completion date.
Miscellaneous	File I-765 application for EAD with USCIS Lockbox Facility (see next page for instructions.) The application for post-completion OPT with the Form I-765 must be received by USCIS within 30 days of the date the OPT recommendation is made in SEVIS. You cannot accrue more than 90 days of unemployment while on post-completion OPT. If you are close to 90 days, consult with your P/DSO (international student advisor) in Madison Hall, Lower Level. Continue to update your P/DSO (international student advisor) with address changes and changes in employment while on post-completion OPT.

ISS EVENTS

STUDENT SUCCESS SERIES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

ORIENTATION DAY 2019

The International Student Success Series ARE YOU TRANSFER, CAREER, OR WORKFORCE READY?

Autumn Semester 2019

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

F1 WORK AUTHORIZATION: OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

International students who will soon be graduating and are interested in applying for Post-Completion OPT are required to attend this OPT workshop. In this workshop, an ISS advisor will cover the regulations and policies for eligibility and maintaining status, time frame to submit your OPT application materials, tips, and help. **RSVP Required** jtang4@cscs.edu.

Friday Sep. 13th
2—3 pm
MA-103

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

F1 WORK AUTHORIZATION: CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

Are you interested in working off-campus in your major field of study before graduation? ISS is offering CPT workshops to go over in detail the application process, student responsibilities, and other important considerations. **RSVP Required** jtang4@cscs.edu.

Friday Sep. 20th
2—3 pm
MA-103

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES & THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

TRANSFER UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE VISIT

Thinking about transferring to one of our Preferred Pathway partner institutions? An international admission representative from OSU will be on campus presenting a workshop to talk about the admissions requirements and deadlines. **RSVP strongly recommend.** jtang4@cscs.edu.

Thursday Sep. 26th
2—3 pm
MA-103

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES / STUDENT EMPLOYMENT / CAREER SERVICES

NAVIGATING THE JOB SEARCH IN THE US

Need help with your job search on and off campus? Come and learn more about the job opportunities you have available to you through Student Employment as well as the free services you have through Career Services to assist. Explore how they can assist with your job hunt and career planning! **RSVP strongly recommend.** jtang4@cscs.edu.

Friday Oct. 4th
2—3 pm
MA-103

It's one of our favorite time of year.! We welcomed more than 50 new international students from 30 different countries at the international student Orientation Fall 2019. We hope that our orientation was equally fun and informative.



IN-SERVICE DAY

ISS staff volunteering at Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS) East Adult Learning Center! [#CStateServes](https://twitter.com/CStateServes)



WHAT HAPPENS ON CAMPUS

COLUMBUS STATE'S SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Do you know Columbus State has a short term exchange program with our partner institution in Germany?



Yes, our college and Berufliches Schulzentrum für Elektrotechnik Dresden (BSZET, a vocational academy focused on engineering and IT) in Dresden, Germany, have developed a short term work-based exchange program for students. This program allows underserved students from both colleges to gain insight into career and workforce development practices in their chosen STEM career fields and provides a work-based learning opportunity

that increases global skills and international understanding.

This program is an every-other-year exchange of students and faculty for ten days. Last year, ten students and two faculty from BSZET visited CSCC. In addition to the cultural experience, they also took part in some specialized labs with the Engineering, IT, and Design faculty. They also visited with business partners in Ohio.

This September, ten CSCC students from the Business, Engineering, Computer Science, and the OSU Pathway programs celebrated meeting with our partner institution, BSZET, and are serving as ambassadors in Dresden, Germany, a sister city of Columbus. Both German and American students worked in pairs to study throughout their time on projects, which included comparing and contrasting the education systems of the two countries, the culture, and mobility with regard to the Smart Cities Initiative. Besides participating in classes, meeting the city and state of Saxony officials, students also visited the manufacturing plant for Theegarten-Pactec. Here students learn how machines can do the packing of thousands of candies in one minute and pass all quality checks. If you ever enjoyed a Hershey's Kiss chocolate candy, you can know it was wrapped by a Theegarten-Pactec machine. The topics of engineering, logistics, business, marketing, and trade realities were discussed.



HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT & CULINARY ARTS

~ JOIN OUR NATIONALLY RANKED PROGRAM TO LAUNCH YOUR CAREER IN THE WORLD OF FOOD AND HOSPITALITY. ~



United States is the best place for international students to study hospitality management because of all the possibilities associated with this industry in the U.S. For three decades, Columbus State has been among the nation's top destinations for education in hospitality management and culinary arts.

This Fall, students are welcomed back to a brand-new building, Mitchell Hall, the new home for the School of Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts. Columbus State's Hotel, Tourism, and

Event Management Major combines classroom instruction, laboratory practice, and required industry work experience. Each year, we have several international students who gain real-world working experience doing their internship with major hotel chains like Marriott, Hyatt, and Hilton in Downtown Columbus.

After graduation and one year of work experience in the industry, students may continue on to Franklin University to complete a degree in Applied Management. A student transferring to Ohio State, Kent State or Ohio University can complete the B.S. program in 2.5 years. For more information visit the website: <https://www.csc.edu/academics/departments/hospitality/>



SPOTLIGHT ON.....



International student and staff spotlight highlight current international students' time at CS



My name is Arian Sorani. I'm an international student here at Columbus State studying Psychology. Although I was born in Norway, my family and I originate from Kurdistan, a region within Iraq.

What drew me to Columbus State were the great faculty, opportunities, affordability, and ease of transfer to four-year institutions. I've been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to undertake a research project with the psychology department, where I learned the intricacies of conducting psychological research through the mentorship program.

I will be starting my first semester at Ohio State University this coming spring semester, where I'll be working towards a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a Neuroscience concentration. I aspire to eventually earn my doctorate in Clinical Psychology, where I would be able to conduct research to progress and contribute to our understanding of treating psychological and psychiatric disorders.





My name is Julie Khoo Su Luan and I am from Penang, the east coast of Malaysia. I joined Singapore Airline as a flight attendant when I was just 19 years old, whereas most of my classmates further their education.

In 2018, I was in the Columbus visiting my son, Anthony Kwa, as he is doing his degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Ohio State University. During my visit, I feel at home in Columbus and decided to go back to college. I would agree that I cannot bring back the past but now I can live in the future. I can pursue my dream. During my stay here I have connected with Columbus State Community College and Ms. Diana Brackbill, who works with international students and was

so helpful. Without any hesitation, she registered me to take a CSCC placement test. Two days later when I stepped onto CSCC's campus I immediately fell in love with the college and decided to enroll as a student. I did not do well at my first placement test at CSCC and was asked to do The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test back in my hometown, Penang, Malaysia. I worked on my English and six months later on January 2019, I managed to get in CSCC.

Today, I am 55 years old, and I am joining CSCC as an international student and Majoring in Hospitality Tourism, Hotel and Event Management. I will never get this chance back home in Malaysia so I will take this opportunity to work hard and enjoy the American culture. To be able to achieve a dream is beautiful and to be able to live with my son, and graduate together is the ultimate goal in life.



My name is Karen Nathania and I'm an international student at Columbus State Community College. I was born and raised in Indonesia. I came to America to study and pursue a better education for myself.

I chose Columbus State because I heard it has great services, a good learning environment, and excellent people that can help me complete my degree. And it's true! I met a lot of new friends and I'm enjoying my first semester here in Columbus State.

A little fun fact about me is that I love to draw and design clothes. I am also a creative director of International Student Association (ISA.) I joined ISA to meet new people and be a part of a community. ISA is also a good opportunity for me to develop my communicating and leadership skills. As one of the officers of ISA, I would like to create exciting events that can build a bond between members and help all international students adapt to their surroundings, such as get-togethers, holiday celebrations, fun activities, sports and many more. Then again, ISA is not only open to international students, but to all students at CSCC. So, come and join me at ISA. See you at Columbus State!



STAY CONNECTED—INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ISA)



My name is Yaocheng Li. I came from Shanghai, China. I am the only child from my family. This is my seventh years in the U.S.

I chose CSCC because I took high school in Cleveland. I love living in Ohio, It seems to me this is my second home. I am planning to transfer to OSU so that I think It's easier getting start the school from here. I like to play badminton and cook dinners for my friends during my spare time.



I am the newly elected President of International Student Association (ISA.) The reason I want to be a part of ISA is helping international students. I am majoring in psychology. I had faced really difficult time in school. My advisors helped me a lot at that time period. I want to appreciate them by helping others. Because I think I am not the only one in that situation. I wish I could have food events and share culture events with ISA. It's a good opportunity for everyone to know and understand unpopular cultures.



ISA Co-Advisor : Jackie Jenkins.

Jackie Jenkins has been in higher education for most of her career! When she is not at Columbus State, she is out running a 5K or spending time with her husband, Kevin and their two pups, Sophie and Teddy . Jackie has worked at Columbus State for 16 years in various roles – most recently with College Credit Plus where she partners with K-12 administrators to build CCP courses in high school districts. She is also passionate about helping students achieve their goals.

There was an announcement in the Update that SEAL needed an International Student Association, (ISA) Advisor. Jackie jumped on the opportunity and was selected as one of the advisors. Her interest stems from memories as a child. Her parents opened up their home to many Ohio State University International Students. It was not uncommon for 25 students from all over the world to gather on Thanksgiving. Students shared food, customs, faith and humor. One year, they served breakfast to an acrobatic dance team from Taiwan who were on their way to their next performance. These are childhood memories she will never forget.

If you are looking for support, friends, and fun activities, please consider joining ISA. The purpose of the student organization is to create a community for international student and provide peer assistance and guidance to on or off campus resources. There are also lots of fun activities, as well. She is excited and feels privileged to mentor the officers! Please stay tuned and look for activities coming your way, soon. If you have questions, please contact either advisor, Candace Allen at callen47@csc.edu or Jackie Jenkins at jjenkins72@csc.edu.

Maintaining Your F-1 student status:

Full-time Enrollment

Please be aware that your [academic advisor](#) and representatives of other college offices may not know about the F-1 full-time requirement. Be sure to make them aware of the requirement when discussing course registration options.

F-1 Student Employment

If you are interested in finding more information regarding regulations related to employment while studying in the United States, go to [ICE.gov](#).

Please note: Do not work without authorization. Unauthorized employment is a violation of your F1 status leading to termination of your SEVIS record. If your I-20 is terminated for "Unauthorized Employment," you must depart the country immediately. For an on-campus job search, go to [www.cscce.edu](#), click on "ABOUT", then scroll down to the Employment field.

If you have any questions regarding employment opportunities or work authorizations, please schedule an appointment to see me (JoYin Tang) by calling 614-287-2074.

Graduating F1 Students

If you are a graduating student, file a "petition to graduate" form by the "petition to graduate" deadline date. Submit a photocopy of the petition to the International Student Services office, Madison Hall, Lower Level and schedule an appointment to meet with the P/DSO (Principal/Designated School Official) to discuss F1 student options upon graduation. Your options upon completion of your studies at CSCC are:

- Depart the U.S. within 60 days of completing the course of study or apply for OPT.
- Continue in F-1 status by pursuing further F-1 studies at another school.
- Apply for standard post-completion optional practical training 90 days before graduation date or program end date and no later than 60 days after completing your course of study.
- Apply to change status to another non-immigration classification no later than 60 days after completing the course of study.

Travel outside the U.S

If you are planning to travel outside the United States during semester break, you must have page 2 of your SEVIS I-20 Form signed by one of the College's DSOs. The signatures are good for one year (except during OPT). Bring with you to the appointment your passport, I-94, and current I-20. Our office will re-view your immigration documents and endorse your I-20 for travel.

Upon return to the U.S., please report to ISS and bring with you photocopies of the following documents:

- New visa stamp if you recently applied for or renewed your F1 visa
- If you recently renewed your passport, copy of the first 3 pages of the new passport including the expiration date page
- Form I-94: to access your electronic I-94 admission document, go to [www.cbp.gov/i94](#)

For more information on student travel: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2014/06/know-before-you-go-international-students-and-summer-travel>