Diversity Immigrant Visa Program 2016

Each year, the U.S. Department of State sponsors a “lottery” to award 50,000 permanent residence visas to persons meeting the eligibility requirements. Diversity visas provide an immigration opportunity for persons from countries that do not send large numbers of immigrants to the US. Applicants will be selected at random by computer. The online registration period will be October 1 – November 2, 2014. Visit the U.S. Department of State website at: http://www.dv-lottery.us/ for more information. Several of SRJC’s international students have won the lottery in past years.

Flag Challenge!

Identify the flags! Look for the answers on the last page.

Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship

The Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship is available to international students who have already completed a semester at SRJC. The scholarship is for $450. Students must be currently enrolled with at least 12 units and have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Students must also enroll in at least 12 units at SRJC during Spring 2015. Financial need is considered when awarding this scholarship. More information can be found at the following web address: http://busapp02.santarosa.edu/SRScholarship/ScholarshipAward.aspx?ScholarshipID=1395

Remember, to be awarded a scholarship, you must apply!

Ambassador Lukens speaks at SRJC

The SRJC International Club, in association with the International Program, multicultural committee and Study Abroad, was proud to present the program “Passport to the World” with Ambassador Lewis Lukens. The program, moderated by SRJC political science instructor Jeanette Ben Farhat, included information regarding the benefits of international education, opportunities for studying abroad, and discussions on diplomacy. Ambassador Lukens is currently Diplomat in Residence at UC Berkeley Career Center as part of the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomat in Residence Program. Most recently Ambassador Lukens served as US Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, managing bilateral relations with both West African nations.

October 2014 Calendar

Oct 10 Ling Scholarship Deadline
Oct 20 Midterm progress available in student portal
Oct 21 Second 8 week classes begin
Oct 31 Happy Halloween!
Peer Mentor Program Excursion: Fun at the Beach!

Student mentors and international students went to Salmon Creek on Saturday, September 27, for some California sun and fun!

Optional Practical Training—Work Permission

Optional Practical Training (O.P.T.) is a benefit of the F-1 Student Visa status that allows one year of full time employment to gain practical experience in your field of study. You must wait until you have earned an Associate degree before applying for this benefit. The employment must be directly related to your major. You can begin looking for a job a few weeks before you expect to receive your Employment Authorization card. Processing time for Practical Training applications is about 3 months, so you should submit your request 3 months before you wish to begin working. US CIS advises students not to leave the country while a request for work permission is being processed. Travel is possible once you have received your receipt notice or EAD card. You are not required to enroll in classes while on OPT.

The forms are available online at: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis
Click on “Forms”, then click on “I-765- Application for Employment Authorization.”

Submit your completed forms, photos and documentation to Kim Hunt in International Student Programs. We will review your application and mail it to USCIS by certified mail.

Recruitment Deadlines

If you know someone from another country who might like to study at SRJC, let them know we are accepting applications for spring semester now.

Spring 2015 Deadlines
Nov 3 Application Deadline for Out-of-Country
Nov 17 Deadline for transfer applicants

Summer 2015 Deadlines
Feb 2 Application filing period begins
May 4 Application Deadline

Fall 2015 Deadlines
Feb 2 Application filing period begins
June 17 Application deadline for Out-of-Country
July 9 Deadline for Transfer applicants

New Electronic Brochure

Have you checked out the new International Student Program eBrochure? You will find a link to it from the ISP homepage at: www.santarosa.edu/international

Become a member of the “SRJC International Club” on Facebook. Keep up with student activities, events, and information.
Festivals and Events

Cotati Oktoberfest
Saturday, October 11
12-6 p.m.
La Plaza Park,
Old Redwood Hwy & W. Sierra Ave., Cotati.

A celebration of German culture, including specialty foods, live music and contests. Admission is free. Look for the big white tent!
http://www.cotati.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/events.main/

Festa Italiana
Sunday, October 12
Santa Rosa Vintners Square
1301 & 1305 Cleveland Avenue, Santa Rosa

Celebration of Italian culture, food and music.
www.nbicf.org

Italian Heritage Fair & Parade
Sunday, October 12
Washington Square Park, San Francisco

This festival has been celebrated for over 140 years! The parade route begins at Fisherman’s Wharf and makes its way to North Beach. This popular event includes colorful parade floats, live entertainment, arts and crafts and specialty foods.
www.sfvenice.org/parade

Annual Viking Fest
October 19
Norway Hall, 617 West Ninth Street, Santa Rosa

A celebration of Norwegian heritage, including Nordic arts and crafts, traditional foods, cultural displays and Viking reenactments.
www.freyalodge.org

El Dios de Los Muertos

The Day of the Dead is a holiday that celebrates the lives of family and loved ones who have passed.

El Dia de los Muertos celebrations will be held in various locations in Sonoma County on November 1-2. There are also many celebrations in San Francisco. http://www.dayofthedeadsf.org/

Corn Maze in Petaluma is Open!

The Petaluma Pumpkin Patch and A’mazing Corn Maze is now open!

The maze is open though the month of October and you can find more information about the maze and the pumpkin patch on their web page. http://petalumapumpkinpatch.com/
Look for them on Facebook, too!

Answers to Flag Challenge!

1- Jordan; 2- Burundi; 3- Brazil; 4- India; 5- Philippines

The newsletter is published monthly Sept.-Dec., Feb.-May
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The “SRJC International Student Program” can also be found on Facebook. Please LIKE us!