Diversity Immigrant Visa Program 2015

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, 2013. Visit the U.S. Department of State website at: www.dvlottery.state.gov for more information. Several of SRJC’s international students have won the lottery in past years.

Pier 39 in San Francisco - San Francisco was beautiful during this outing with International Students in August. The America’s Cup was in the middle of eventing that day, and we watched the Oracle fly across the bay!

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 US CIS by certified mail.

Tell Your Friends!

Santa Rosa Junior College now has approval to issue SEVIS I-20s for ESL (English as a Second Language) students. This means that international applicants who score lower than a 53 (iBT) on the TOEFL or 5 on the IELTS can attend Santa Rosa Junior College. For more information, visit the English Language Studies Program section of our International Student web page at: www.santarosa.edu/international or contact Teresa Tope, International Student Advisor at: ttope@santarosa.edu.

October Calendar

Oct 14  Second 8 week classes begin
Oct 18  Ling Scholarship Deadline
Oct 21  Midterm progress available in student portal
Oct 31  Happy Halloween!

Tell Your Friends!
Festivals and Events

Cotati Oktoberfest
October 12
A celebration of German culture, including specialty foods, live music and contests.
La Plaza Park, Old Redwood Hwy & W. Sierra Cotati
www.sonomacounty.com/sonoma-events/cotati-oktoberfest

Festa Italiana
October 13
Celebration of Italian culture, food and music.
Santa Rosa Veteran’s Memorial Hall, Maple @ Brookwood Ave.
Santa Rosa
www.nbicf.org

Italian Heritage Fair & Parade
October 13
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.
Washington Square Park, San Francisco
www.sfcolumbusday.org/parade

Annual Viking Fest
October 19
A celebration of Norwegian heritage, including Nordic arts and crafts, traditional foods, cultural displays and Viking reenactments.
Norway Hall, 617 West Ninth Street, Santa Rosa.
www.freyalodge.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://www.petalumapumpkinpatch.com/cornmaze.htm. Look for them find them on Facebook, too!

Sonoma County Art Trails
For many years, Sonoma County artists have opened their homes and/or studios to the public for two weekends a year. The dates this year are October 12-13, and October 19-20. Over 170 artists will have their works on display for you to look at and buy. You will discover photography, paintings, sculptures, ceramic art, glass art, wood art, metal art, outdoor art, jewlery, and so much more. Plan your personal art trail using the information at the ARTrails website. http://www.sonaamaarts.com/artrails/artrails_how_it_works

International Club Meeting Soon
The International Student Club meets the first Thursday of every month from 12-1pm in the Maggini Hall Conference Room (2nd floor, Room 2825). Please join them on Thursday, November 7, for the next meeting. You can also find them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/#!/groups/SRJC.International/ Eric is working on the International Education Week Panel for the dates below. We need your help to make this event happen.

Wed., Nov. 13, 5-6:30, Student Activities Center
• Panel discussion of students
• This event is still under construction

Wed., Nov. 20, 5-6:30, Newman Auditorium
• Keynote speaker
• Student presentations on their own country and experiences here.
• Performance by some cultural group