Welcome to the Fall 2014 semester! SRJC is welcoming 53 new F-1 visa students, and 13 new J-1 visa students to our college this fall. International students collectively represent 42 countries, including Australia, Indonesia, Pakistan, India, China, Vietnam, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Turkey, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Spain, France, Colombia, Brazil, Finland, Denmark, and more. We hope you enjoy your experience here at SRJC!

September 2014 Calendar
- Sept. 1: Labor Day Holiday - No Classes
- Sept. 7: Last day to register/add with the instructor’s signature or add code*
- Sept. 7: Last day to drop a class without a “W” symbol
- Sept. 9: SRJC Transfer Day in Bertolini Quad
- Sept. 28: Last day to select Pass/No Pass Option

* Short courses (less than a semester in length) have different deadlines for adding, dropping and refunds. Check your course section number online to confirm deadline dates for a specific course.

New Student Tour of Santa Rosa

Maintaining Student Status
For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview of the basic regulations for F-1 Visa students. Failing to maintain your status could result in serious consequences and may affect your ability to remain in or return to the United States. To maintain your legal status, you must:
- Enroll in and successfully complete 12 units each semester.
- Have a valid SEVIS I-20 from the school you are attending.
- Report any address changes to International Admissions within 10 days.
- Have legal permission for any employment.
- Limit enrollment in online classes to 3 units or one class per semester.

Travel and Reentry
Every time you leave the U.S. you will need your passport and I-20 form to reenter. Your I-20 must be signed by a designated school official in International Admissions before you leave.

Working During the Academic Term
Working off campus is not permitted, however, F-1 students may work part-time on campus during the semester up to 20 hours per week. To work on campus, you will need to obtain a U.S. Social Security Number. The Social Security Office requires International students to bring letters of permission from their school. If you are offered a job on campus, Student Employment and International Admissions will provide you the required letters.

Students who have earned a degree in the U.S. may qualify for off-campus employment. This program allows you to work full-time for one year in your field of study. Optional Practical Training requires prior authorization from USCIS. For more information, please contact Kim Hunt, International Student Advisor, Admissions & Records Office.
International Counselor Available

International Counselor, Nicole Frantz, is available to see students in the Counseling Center in Bertolini Hall, Second Floor, on Mondays from 9 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m. For all other times, you should ask for one of the other liaison counselors for international students. On the Santa Rosa Campus: Jerry Thao, Filomena Avila, or Amy Merkel. On the Petaluma Campus: Andrea Alvarado or Vince Hamilton. When you arrive, you should tell the person at the counseling center that you are an international student.

 $$$ Scholarship $$$

The Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship is once again available for International students. To qualify for this scholarship, students must have completed 12 units prior to Fall 2014 and must continue for Spring 2015. You must also have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and be in good standing with SRJC and USCIS. Financial need will be considered. One award of $450 will be given at the beginning of Spring 2015. On September 2, applications for this scholarship will be available online and in the Scholarship Office in Plover Hall on the Santa Rosa campus and Kathleen Doyle Hall on the Petaluma Campus. The closing date for applications is October 10. For more information, please call 527-4740.

Peer Mentor Program

Created this year and coordinated by Jessica Campbell Pardoe, the Peer Mentor Program is available to Santa Rosa Junior College students who want to assist incoming international students adjust to a new academic environment in an unfamiliar culture. This program is designed to promote intercultural communication between American and international students, while welcoming first-year students from other counties to SRJC. Peer mentors are instrumental as conversation partners for students who are still learning the English language. For more information, please contact Jessica Campbell Pardoe at: jcampbell@santarosa.edu

Homestays Now Available

If you are an SRJC employee interested in a cross-cultural experience for yourself and your family, please consider hosting an international student. For more information go to www.isphomestays.com or contact Jean Ikeda at: jean@isphomestays.com

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

Moon Festival
Saturday, September 6
6:00 p.m.—Dusk
This free family event features a pot-luck dinner, chicken and mooncakes, games, crafts, and a lantern procession. Watch the moon rise while celebrating a traditional Chinese Holiday! There is no admission fee but a pot-luck contribution is appreciated.
RECA Multi-Cultural Center
3455 Sebastopol Road
Santa Rosa, CA
http://www.recacenter.org/index.htm

Oktoberfest By the Bay
Friday, Sept. 19, 5 p.m.—midnight
Saturday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m.—midnight
Sunday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m.—6 p.m.
Nonstop music, singing, dancing and the very best in German food and drink. One of the top 10 Oktoberfests in the U.S.
Pier 48, San Francisco
http://www.oktoberfestbythebay.com/

Dancing Poetry Festival
Saturday, Sept. 20, noon—4 p.m.
Tickets: $15
Multi-faceted, multi-genre art performances by world dance companies and honored poets.
http://www.dancingpoetry.com/

Glendi International Food Fair
Saturday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m.—9 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 21, noon—6 p.m.
A multi-cultural celebration with specialty foods from the Middle-East, The Balkin, Macedonia, Greece, Eritrea, Italy, and Russia. Vegetarian fare is available. Watch the Folk Dancing exhibitions and afterward learn how it’s done.
St. Seraphim Orthodox Church
90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa
http://www.saintseraphim.com/glendi1.html

New Student Field Trip to San Francisco
The newsletter is published monthly Sept.-Dec., Feb.-May
Peg Saragina, Director
International Student Program
Plover Hall, Santa Rosa Campus
Phone: 707-527-4509 Email: msaragina@santarosa.edu
Also available online: www.santarosa.edu/international

The “SRJC International Student Program” can also be found on Facebook. Please LIKE us!