Traveling Over the Break?

If you are planning to leave the U.S. over the semester break, you must get your SEVIS I-20 form signed before you leave. Without this signature, US CIS officials at the airport may prevent you from reentering the country, or may give you permission for only a 30-day stay. We encourage you to visit our office before finals begin on December 17th to obtain the required signature. SRJC Admissions Office will close for the Winter Break on December 22 and will not reopen until January 3, 2013. You need a valid passport, visa, and signed I-20 form to reenter the U.S. If your passport or visa has expired, or will expire by the time you travel, you must renew it before returning to the United States. Check with your consulate or embassy to find out processing times and procedures.

Important Reminders

• All outstanding Fall 2012 tuition fees must be paid by December 21st.
• Priority Registration for Spring 2013 began on November 26th. Take advantage of your priority time to get the classes you need.
• If you are planning to graduate this semester, please complete the Petition to Graduate form. You can submit this form online at: https://www.santarosa.edu/app/admissions/forms.shtml
• If you are planning to transfer to another school for the Spring 2013 semester, please notify Kim Hunt, International Student Advisor, as soon as possible.

December - January Calendar

- Dec 17-21: Finals Week
- Dec 22-Jan 2: Campus closed
- Dec 22-Jan 13: Winter Semester Break
- January 7: Fall 2012 grades available
- January 14: Spring 2013 classes begin
- January 21: M. L. King Holiday - no classes
- January 27: Refund deadline for semester length classes

US Citizenship Opportunity-MAVNI

Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), is a program that allows certain legal aliens (including F-1 visa students) to gain immediate US Citizenship by joining the US Military. The program is only available to legal aliens holding critical skills—physicians, nurses, and experts in certain languages with associated cultural backgrounds. Three to four years of active duty service is required. See the resources listed below for more information.

http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis , click on “Military”
Holiday Events

Holiday Tree Lighting
December 7, 6pm
See the lights on the holiday tree at center ice, and enjoy a performance by skaters, and Snoopy and Charlie Brown too.
Redwood Empire Ice Arena, West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa
http://www.snoopyshomeice.com/

Lucia Fest
December 9, 4-7pm
Traditional Swedish foods, dance performance and pageant.
Linnea Lodge, Petaluma Vets Memorial Building
1094 Petaluma Blvd. So., Petaluma
www.linnealodge.com

Holiday Ice Skating in San Francisco
Through January 6th
Celebrate the holiday season at the outdoor ice skating rinks at Embarcadero Center and Union Square in San Francisco.
http://embarcaderocenter.com/events/holiday-icerink/
http://www.unionsquareicerink.com/

Practical Training Guidelines
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 work authorization card. Current processing time for Practical Training applications is about 3 months. Any student wishing to begin working in January/February 2013 should apply now. 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. Contact Kim Hunt in the Admissions Office for more information.

US President Visits Asia
President Barack Obama recently visited Asia to attend the East Asia Summit. He visited Thailand, Cambodia and the nation of Burma, also known as Myanmar. This is the first time a US president has visited this nation. The US hopes to increase ties with these three countries.
http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/18/asia-obama-thailand-idUSL1E8MI0CG20121118

We wish you a joyous holiday season and best wishes for a Happy New Year!
The newsletter will return in February.