Back to School for Spring 2014

Welcome to a new year and a new semester at SRJC. Twenty new international students are joining our college for the Spring 2014 semester. Countries represented include China, Denmark, France, Kenya, Korea, Sierra Leone, Vietnam and many more. We enjoyed meeting many of you at the International Student Meet and Greet on January 28. We hope you enjoy your stay at SRJC!

International Student Orientation

This group photo from our New International Student Orientation shows just how much fun we had!

February Calendar

- February 2: Last day to drop classes without a “W”
- February 2: Last day to add classes with add code
- February 13: Professional Development Day-no classes
- February 14: Lincoln’s Day Holiday- no classes
- February 14: Happy Valentine’s Day!
- February 17: Washington’s Day Holiday-no classes
- February 23: Last day for Pass/No Pass option

2014 Scholarship News

Last year 13 international students received 21 different scholarships ranging from $200 to $3000.

SRJC Continuing Student Scholarships

*International Students can apply!*

Over 400 scholarships are available for students who will continue their studies at SRJC in 2014-2015. Students must have completed at least 12 units at SRJC at the end of Spring 2014 and have an overall SRJC GPA of 2.50 or higher. Deadline: March 3, 2014.

Transferring Student Scholarships

Available to students who have completed 60 transferable units (at least 24 units at SRJC) and will transfer to a four-year institution during the 2014-2015 academic year. Applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 to apply. Deadline: March 3, 2014.

Margaret Trussell and Laurie D. Judson Scholarships

Applications will be available Feb. 3. Two awards, one for $550 and one for $450 will be awarded for Fall 2014. Students can apply for both scholarships on the same form: Deadline: March 14, 2014.

For more information, contact the Scholarship Office at 527-4740. Visit their office in Plover Hall on the Santa Rosa Campus, or Doyle Hall on the Petaluma Campus. Visit their website at: [http://www.santarosa.edu/scholarship](http://www.santarosa.edu/scholarship)

Congratulations to Kuan-Ju Chen, recent winner of the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.
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 with 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 U.S. CIS.

For more information, please contact Kim Hunt, International Student Advisor, Admissions & Records Office: (khunt@santarosa.edu). You can also learn more on the web at: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisfactsheet.htm.

Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, here is an overview of the basic regulations for International students with F-1 visas. 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. Check your U.S. entry visa to be sure that it is still valid. If not, you will need to get a new visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate while you are abroad.

Working During the Academic Term

Working off campus is not permitted. However, F-1 students who are maintaining status may work part time on campus while classes are in session, up to 20 hours per week. During vacation periods and academic breaks, you may work full time on campus if you are returning to classes the following term.

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Festivals and Events

Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse

Many Asian cultures celebrate the Lunar New Year. It is the most important holiday season of the year. Common traditions include fireworks to chase away bad spirits, cleaning house, paying off debts, celebration foods, visiting with family, and paying homage to the ancestors.

San Francisco Chinese New Year Festival and Parade.
Saturday, February 15
Chinatown, San Francisco

This celebration is the largest celebration of Asian culture outside of Asia. It has been a San Francisco tradition for over 150 years. The parade includes floats, elaborate costumes, ferocious lions, exploding firecrackers, and the famous 200 foot Golden Dragon. The parade begins at 5:15pm at the corner of Market Street & Second Street and will be broadcast live on KTVU Fox Channel 2 and KTSF Channel 26.
www.chinese-parade.com
For more Chinatown events:
http://www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/events/index.html

Redwood Empire Chinese New Year Celebration
Saturday, February 15, 6pm – 9pm
Veteran’s Memorial Building
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

A cultural celebration including dance, music, martial arts, dragons, lions and traditional Chinese foods. Sponsored by the Redwood Empire Chinese Association.
www.recacenter.org

International Students Spring 2014

Spring 2014: 93 students
Spring 2013: 74 students

34 countries represented
Most popular majors, in order:
  Business Administration
  Health Sciences
  Computer Studies
  Engineering
  Architecture
  Wine Studies

International and Cultural Awareness

1. Spain produces 44% of the world’s olive oil. (True or False)
2. In Columbia, wrapped gifts are opened immediately. (True or False)
3. In Italy, you should not bring your hostess red or yellow flowers. (True or False)
4. Shoes or socks are inappropriate gifts in Thailand and Laos. (True or False)
5. You have finished your meeting in South Korea and you would like to invite your host to a meal. How many times will you have to insist before he/she relents and accepts your invitation? (a. once is enough  b. twice will do  c. fourth time is a charm)
6. At a dinner in Hong Kong, where will the guest of honor be seated? (a. to the left of the host  b. to the right of the host  c. opposite the host.)

Quiz Answers

Sources:

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Also available online at:
http://www.santarosa.edu/app/int-students/newsletters.php