Welcome to the Fall 2012 semester at SRJC! We have 25 new International students joining our college this term. Seventeen countries are represented, including Belize, Brazil, France, Guinea-Bissau, Korea, Macau, Nepal, Taiwan, Vietnam, and more.

Please join us for the International Student Welcome Event on Wednesday, September 12 from 12:30-2:00 p.m., in the Student Activities Center (SAC) in Bertolini Hall. Our president, Dr. Frank Chong, will stop by to say hello. He is a strong supporter of our international students and wants to welcome you personally. We hope to see you there!

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 2012, must continue for Spring 2013, have a minimum GPA of 2.50, and be in good standing with SRJC and US CIS. Financial need will be considered. One award of $500.00 will be awarded at the beginning of Spring 2013.

Applications for this scholarship will be available beginning on September 10th in the Scholarship Office, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa Campus, and Kathleen Doyle Hall, Petaluma Campus. For more information, please call 527-4740.

As of Aug. 10, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) no longer provides admission stamps on I-20 Forms for prospective and returning international students traveling to the United States. US CIS implemented this change as part of the launch of its online immigration benefits system, USCIS Electronic Immigration System, as it transforms the agency from a paper-based system to an online environment.

The nation of Mongolia opened its first official U.S. consulate in San Francisco on June 14, 2012. They will explore business partnerships with the U.S., promote cultural exchanges, and assist the local Mongolian population. An estimated 3,000 Mongolians live in the San Francisco Bay area. More than 80 consulates and foreign trade offices are located in San Francisco.
Festivals and Events

**Glendi International Food Fair**
*September 15 & 16*
Glendi is a celebration of many cultures. Specialty foods will be offered from the Middle East, Eritrea, Kenya, Russia, Greece, Romania, & other cultures. Live Balkan music and dance.
Saint Seraphim Orthodox Church, 90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa.
[www.glendi.net](http://www.glendi.net)

**Kathmandu Fall Festival**
*September 15 & 16*
A festival celebrating Indian, Nepalese and Tibetan cultures with traditional food, music, dance and crafts. All proceeds benefit the Childrens Medical Aid Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting the work of a Nepalese mobile surgical team.
Depot Park, 270 First Street, Sonoma.
[www.childrensmedaid.org/kathmandu-festival/](http://www.childrensmedaid.org/kathmandu-festival/)

**Taste of Greece**
*September 21-23*
Greek cultural festival including traditional food, music and dance.
Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco
[www.annunciation.org/festival](http://www.annunciation.org/festival)

**Moon Festival**
*September 22 & 23*
The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival, has been a popular tradition in Asia for over 1,000 years. It is traditionally a harvest festival, celebrating the end of the agricultural year. San Francisco’s Autumn Moon Festival includes a dragon parade, arts and crafts, food bazaar and entertainment.
Grant Avenue, Chinatown, San Francisco.
[www.moonfestival.org](http://www.moonfestival.org)

Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview here 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 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 us 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.

Students who have earned a degree in the US 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 US CIS.

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