

ISSS August 2021 Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is intended for students on F-1 and J-1 visas & contains important information regarding student visa status & other relevant announcements.

Please read it carefully and completely.

Help Stop the Spread

With coronavirus transmission rates rising in the Salt Lake Valley and around the state, we want you to know how the university is responding to these changing pandemic conditions—and to ask for your support and active participation working together in a One U spirit. As we begin the month of August and prepare for the start of fall semester, we are asking all faculty, students, and staff to do the following:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccination.
- If you are unvaccinated, get weekly asymptomatic coronavirus testing.
- Follow CDC guidelines and wear face masks when indoors.

COVID-19 vaccination events will be available throughout the Fall 2021 semester. You can learn more about the vaccination events [here](#).

Read the [full message online](#) from the University of Utah's Senior Leadership.

ISSS Office Update

International Student & Scholar Services is now available for limited in-person and drop-in visits to the main office in the Union building, room 410. There is a limit of 3 persons at a time within the office—please expect possible delays when visiting in-person. We will also have limited in-person advising as we gradually reopen our office to in-person services.

ISSS is open Monday through Friday from 8AM-5PM Mountain Time, excluding holidays. You may continue to call our office at 801-581-8876, or email us general questions at international@utah.edu, or make an appointment (Zoom, phone, or limited in-person) by emailing us at appointment@utah.edu

CPT & OPT Workshops

Our Fall 2021 International Student Workshop schedule has been finalized – we will be presenting on topics such as CPT, OPT, and Maintaining your F-1 Status. All workshops will be hosted via Zoom. Please see our [Workshops webpage](#) for the full schedule.

The first workshops of the semester will be held on August 18th and 19th. Sign up in [UAtlas](#) today!

Beware of Scams:

International students and scholars at University of Utah and other universities across the U.S. have frequently been targets of a variety of scams using phone, email, social media, and other means. The scammers will also often use your personal information to deceive you. **The university, a police department, or the U.S. government will never call you directly and demand immediate payment over the phone.** We recommend you to review our “[Beware of Scams!](#)” webpage for further tips and information related to scams.

Report Fall 2021 Status

ALL STUDENTS are required to submit the Report Fall 2021. This form will guide you through any general requirements you may have for Fall 2021 semester as well as let ISSS know how we can best advise you. For those of you that are new for Fall, this form will also direct you to the required Orientation modules.

You may access this form through the link below: (The form will also be accessible in your UAtlas under Report Fall 2021 Status)

<https://uatlas.iss.utah.edu/istart/controllers/client/ClientEngine.cfm?serviceid=EFormGroupProvider&eformGroup=69>

Research Survey

Shenrui Yang is a second-year Ph.D. international student in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP) at the University of Utah. She holds a M.E. in College Student Services Administration (CSSA) from Oregon State University (OSU). As a qualitative researcher, she specializes in Multicultural Issues, primarily focusing on international students.

Shenrui has requested to share her research survey with the international student population at the University of Utah. Your participation and responses will be helpful for her doctoral research. Participation in the survey is not mandatory.

Shenrui provided the statement below to explain her research goals and the purpose of the survey:

"Asian international students, as the largest share of international students in the United States, suffer from hateful speech and are becoming victims of racism, especially recently with the rise of anti-Asian sentiments fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this study is to understand what racial incidents Asian international students are experiencing, how these racial incidents impact these international students, and how students respond to them. The exploration of these three areas aims to explore the racialization process of Asian international students. I hope this study can help the U.S. higher education understand Asian international students' position and racial identity development process, which can help build a relatively racially harmonious and safe campus environment."

You can access the survey here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScR8KeWPBRuFtUsHRDcmzxXyvHOKsJExn3SF1czctZSqqoUg/viewform?usp=sf_link

*Please note this survey is not created by the ISSS office, and ISSS staff will not have access to the survey responses or data.

Global U Newsletter

Subscribe to the Global U Newsletter to learn how our U community is engaging internationally. Issues are emailed twice per Fall and Spring semester. (<https://global.utah.edu/newsletter/>)

COVID-19 & Travel Updates:

Refer to the ISSS [COVID-19 FAQ](#) page for the most up to date announcements concerning COVID-19 and travel updates for the University of Utah as an F-1 or J-1 student for the Fall 2021 semester!

Further University of Utah resources related to COVID-19 for students, including general travel advisories, vaccines, current phase of return to campus, and details on mandatory wearing of face coverings on campus, can be found at [COVID-19 Central @TheU](#).

Housing:

We understand that finding housing is very limited at this time! Please review these [online resources](#) ISSS has provided for information about finding an apartment or room to rent off-campus, finding a roommate, and your rights as a tenant in Utah.

On-Campus Wellness Resources:

- [Resources During COVID-19](#). A comprehensive list of financial, educational, food, fitness, things to do, wellness, and UofU resources.
- [Student Success Advocates](#): Meet with an advocate to help you in creating success on campus! Their office also has a helpful list of UofU [Tools for Success](#).

Further wellness resources:

- If you are in need of real-time 24/7 crisis intervention, then you can text [SafeUT by using their app](#).
- Local 24-hour crisis line by calling 801-587-3000 anytime day or night and connect with the [Utah Crisis line](#).
- Interested in free and guided meditation then check out the UofU's [The Mindfulness Center](#) for virtual drop-in visits.
- Check out tips on [Coping with COVID-19 Uncertainty](#).
- Make an appointment with the [University Counseling Center](#) for free & confidential virtual meetings with a counselor!