

UNG GLOBAL

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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TRAVEL SIGNATURES

If you are planning to travel internationally for Spring Break, you must have a valid travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019.

A travel signature is valid for one year, so if you received one in the fall, you should not need another one for Spring Break. Without a signature, you may not be able to re-enter the U.S. upon your return. It's important to remember that if you forget to have your I-20 or DS-2019 signed before you leave the U.S., you will be responsible for covering the costs of a new I-20 or DS-2019 to be sent to you.

There are a few ways to obtain a travel signature if you need one.

Travel Signature Walk-In Times

Cumming

Tuesday, March 5 | 10 AM - 12 PM | Room 262

Dahlonega

Wed., March 6 | 11 AM - 1 PM | Dunlap Lobby

Gainesville

Monday, March 4 | 11 - 1 PM | Nesbitt Lobby

Oconee

Monday, March 4 | 3 - 5 PM | Admin 108

By Appointment

If the walk-in times above do not work for your schedule, or if you need a signature sooner, you can [schedule a time with your international advisor](#) to get a travel signature.

Don't forget your travel signature!



GRADUATION: DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO APPLY?

Are you finishing your degree this May? Maybe you plan to graduate in the summer. Either way, make sure that you apply for graduation! The deadline for Spring (May) is **tomorrow, Tuesday, February 19!** If you apply after this deadline, you will be charged a \$100 late fee.

Instructions for applying can be found online on [the Registrar Office website](#). All questions should be directed to the Registrar's Office.

All graduation ceremonies, regardless of your home campus, will be held in Dahlonega in the Convocation Center.

It is important for you to review the [Commencement Tips and Information](#) to know how to order tickets for your family and friends, where to be and when, and what to bring with you to the ceremony.

If you have family and friends traveling to the U.S. for graduation who need to apply for visas, the CGE has provided [information and an invitation letter template](#) for your use. The CGE does not write letters of invitation for these visitors.



TAXES

You may have already received emails or information this year related to filing U.S. tax forms. Each student has different requirements for what should be filed each year.

You should be receiving an email within the next week from your International Student Advisor with information on filing tax forms. UNG works with a company called Sprintax to help you file the appropriate forms and to do so at a discounted cost, so even if you have started receiving emails about filing tax forms, we recommend that you wait until you receive more information from us!

If you are a student athlete or on a Rotary scholarship, you will not be able to file your tax forms until later (after March 15) when your 1042-S tax form is available. The 1042-S form will be sent to you electronically.

More information on tax obligations for F-1 students and J-1 students and scholars can be [found on the CGE website](#).

The deadline for filing your tax forms is April 15.

To Do
Check your email for tax information!

Know your deadlines!

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

F-1 students are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week on any of UNG's campuses during fall and spring semesters. J-1 students are permitted to seek on-campus employment, but must have authorization from their program sponsor.

If you are interested in looking for an on-campus job, you may start your [search on the Human Resources website](#). It is important to remember that international students can only work in the Job Category of **Student—Institutional**.

Many international students have never had a job before, so they are not confident in applying or building their résumé. The CGE **highly** recommends that you visit the [Career Services office or website](#) to get help from experienced career counselors on building your résumé and cover letter. In addition to tips on applying for jobs, Career Services can help you practice for interviews and know how to dress appropriately for the interview and the job.

If you are offered an on-campus job, it is important to remember that you **must** have a social security number in order to begin working. You must have an offer from a department in order to apply for a social security number. You can find information on how to get started with your [application for a social security number on the CGE website](#). Your International Student Advisor will help you understand what the steps are to apply and what to do after you've applied. If you receive a social security number, it is important to keep it safely locked up at home unless you need it.

Students must be in good academic standing and have an Active SEVIS record in order to work on campus. If a student fails to maintain status, the CGE will notify Human Resources that the student is no longer eligible to work on-campus.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



NAME: Ashkan

CAMPUS: Dahlonega

MAJOR: Post Professional Doctorate of
Physical Therapy

WHERE I'M FROM: I am from Iran and came directly from the capital city of Tehran. Tehran is one of the most populous cities in the world. It has lots of interesting things to do, and the traffic is very congested, like New York City or San Francisco.

WHAT I MISS MOST ABOUT HOME: First, I miss my family and friends. Also, I was a director of a hospital, so I miss my patients, my colleagues, and all of the staff that I worked with there, because they were like an extension of my family.

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT UNG: I am impressed by the quality of the faculty at UNG. The Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Professions, Dr. Teresa Conner-Kerr, is a very nice person. The Dean asked me to be a teaching assistant, and this was a brilliant chance for me to learn how to teach in the U.S. Last, but not least, I am thankful for Dr. Nourbakhsh for providing this opportunity to enroll in these courses.

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I go to the gym for exercise and weight lifting. I was playing soccer, but the practice schedule did not work for me because of my heavy course-load. I appreciate all of the entertainment available at UNG for students.

FUTURE CAREER PLANS: I was a physical therapist in my country, and now, through my UNG academic experience, I realize that I want to work as an international physical therapist that teaches in other countries. I really want to help the field of physical therapy develop and progress, and I want to share what I have learned here at UNG through teaching and research.

*Would you like to be featured
in a future edition of our
newsletter? [Email Ronda](#) to
let her know!*