

# UNG GLOBAL

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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[ungglobal](https://www.instagram.com/ungglobal)



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# TRAVEL TIPS & SIGNATURES

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

A travel signature is valid for one year. Without a signature, you may not be able to re-enter the U.S. If you forget to have your I-20 signed before you leave the U.S., you will be responsible for covering the costs of your new document to be sent to you.

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

## **By Appointment**

You may have other questions in addition to needing a travel signature. If so, you should [schedule a time with your international advisor](#) to get a travel signature so that they can schedule adequate time to answer your other questions.

## **Document Drop-Off**

If you simply need a travel signature and have no other questions for your advisor, you can drop off your I-20 or DS-2019 with the Staff Associate in the CGE and pick it up the next day.

## **Cumming & Oconee Students**

Your international student advisor will schedule days to be on your campus before fall break to sign your documents for travel.



*Don't forget your travel signature!*

# AIRPORT SHUTTLE DATES

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The CGE will offer end of the semester transportation to the Atlanta airport on Saturday, December 14th (leaving UNG's Dahlonega Campus at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM). **Sign up** by filling out the [Airport Drop-Offs Form](#) with your information.

**Important note:** The CGE reserves the right to reschedule your selected drop-off time to another shuttle that works with your flight time in order to maximize use of transportation. This service is **first-come, first-served**, and you will receive a confirmation with more details.

Spring Semester pick-ups will occur on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. The first shuttle pick-up is at 10:00 AM. The second shuttle pick-up is at 5:00 PM. Please plan to arrive at the ATL airport no later than 5:00 PM or you will be expected to make other arrangements for transportation. Sign up now using the [Airport Pick-Ups Form](#).

# LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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There are many ways for international students and exchange visitors to get involved on campus.

The CGE website has a list of [various leadership opportunities for you to explore](#).

You can find ways to be involved on campus—in a variety of capacities—by visiting the [UNG Connect](#) website. Opportunities are available by campus.

One way we would especially love for you to be involved is to volunteer to help with [International Student Orientation](#)! If you're interested, email your international advisor to get more information!



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

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International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. Each year, the CGE hosts events to celebrate International Education Week. Visit our website to see the [most up-to-date list of events for your campus](#).

# HOLIDAY CLOSURES & SCHEDULES

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As a reminder, it is important for you to know holiday schedules, especially if you are a student on the Dahlonega campus where there are residence halls and multiple on-campus dining options.

## Traditional Residence Halls close

(Donovan Hall, Lewis Hall & Lewis Annex)

**Fall Break:** November 22—December 1

**Winter Break:** December 14—January 12

## Last day of class

Friday, December 6

## Finals

December 9—13

## University Closes for Winter Break

December 20—January 2

## First day of class for Spring 2020

Monday, January 13

Make sure to pay attention to emails from your international advisor and plan ahead so that you schedule appointments and get signatures before the University is closed for break.

# PROGRAM END DATES

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All international students, scholars, and exchange visitors have a program end date listed on their I-20 or DS-2019. You might be wondering what you should do once this date starts coming near. There are several things you should know and [several options for updating your documents to avoid being out of status when this date arrives](#).

- Extend your program
- Change your education level
- Apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Transfer to a new institution to start a new program or finish your current one
- Complete your degree at UNG and depart the U.S. to return home.

Once your program end date occurs, you have a [grace period](#) to remain in the U.S. After this grace period ends, if you have not taken steps to begin a new program, participate in OPT, or departed the country, you will begin to accrue unlawful presence.

## Grace Periods

F Visa holders: 60 days

J Visa holders: 30 days

It is also important to notify your international advisor if you complete your program before your program end date so that your record and documents can be properly updated.

## To Do

*Plan ahead!  
Know your deadlines!  
Get involved!*

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**NAME:** Vansh Patel

**CAMPUS:** Gainesville

**MAJOR:** Engineering

**WHERE I'M FROM:** I'm from Africa, from a country called Zambia, which is situated in southern Africa. I am an international student, and I have been in the U.S. for just a little above 2 months!

**WHAT I MISS MOST ABOUT HOME:** Well, first of all my family—I miss them and I had quite a huge family, a family of 9! I also miss playing cricket, as it used to be one of the things I loved doing on a daily basis. There's a lot of other things that there are to miss about home, but for now, I miss these the most.

**WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT UNG:** I really love the campus. It is big and beautiful (just an amazing place to study). There are really amazing student facilities, and I'm still getting used to the whereabouts of everything on campus, but on the very top of my list is the friendliness of the staff and lecturers on the campus (oh, and credits to Ronda, my International Student Advisor, for helping me out with literally everything!). The faculty and staff have made me feel welcomed and the campus has definitely become another home away from home!

**CAMPUS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am actually involved in a number of activities across campus, from being one of the officers on the International Student Association (ISA) team to just attending campus events. Mainly I am connected through the ISA, as I was elected the Secretary/Treasurer for this year; this allows me to be in contact with other ISA members and get to know them personally.

**FUTURE CAREER PLANS:** I am planning to get a Bachelor's degree in Engineering.

That's basically me, Vansh at UNG!

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