

UNG GLOBAL

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**



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If you need this document in an alternate format, please [contact the Center for Global Engagement.](#)



CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Did you know that there are currently over **200** student organizations across all UNG campuses? UNG's values include both service and engagement, and we want you to get involved! You can find upcoming campus events—hosted by student organizations or departments—through [UNG Connect](#). It is important to make sure that you sign in when you participate in UNG-sponsored events so that you can track your co-curricular credit and involvement hours!

One way many international students get involved is through the International Student Association (ISA) on the Dahlonega and Gainesville campuses. This student organization is open to all students—both domestic and international.

Gainesville Campus ISA

We encourage you to join the International Student Association (GVL) group on UNG Connect. This will allow you to stay up-to-date with the weekly meetings and events.

***GVL ISA Meetings
Every Friday, 12:00-1:00
Student Center Meeting Room 3***

Dahlonega Campus ISA

Dahlonega students interested in participating in the DAH ISA are encouraged to attend an interest meeting to discuss meeting dates and ideas for the semester. Contact Nicole (Nicole.Maddox@ung.edu) with questions!

***Wednesday, September 4, at 12:00-1:00
Young Hall, Room 115***

APPLYING FOR GRADUATION

Are you finishing your degree this December? Make sure that you apply for graduation! The deadline for December graduation is **September 18, 2019!** 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 the graduation ceremony 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.

Important: Check your email for information on Optional Practical Training (OPT) workshops. If you are graduating and do not receive an email about these workshops, please contact your International Student Advisor.

*Meet with your academic advisor **NOW** to ensure you have met all requirements for graduation **BEFORE** the graduation application deadline!*

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

F-1 and J-1 students are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week on any of UNG's campuses during fall and spring semesters but must have authorization from the Center for Global Engagement (CGE).

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 and prepare for interviews, compare job offers, and much more!

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 the application process. 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.



VOLUNTEER OR INTERNSHIP?

How do you know whether the experience you are interested in is a volunteer opportunity or an internship? Many students think "I'm not getting paid, so that means I'm volunteering," when, in reality, that may not be the case.

An internship is something that you choose to do or that is required for your degree completion that develops your skills in your chosen profession. Volunteering is generally civic, charitable, or humanitarian in nature.

If you are interested in volunteer and community service opportunities, you can find information on the [Office of Student Involvement website](#).

If you think you are interested in participating in an internship opportunity, it is important for you to know that there are regulations for F-1 and J-1 visa holders in regards to internships. You may or may not be eligible to engage in an internship based on your program of study. Before looking for or accepting an internship opportunity, whether paid or unpaid, it is important that you review the guidelines on the [CGE website about volunteering and interning](#)—whether your experience is paid or unpaid.

If you are eligible to participate in an internship, you can find more information and possible opportunities on the [Career Services website](#).