

# New International Student Orientation



Presented by:  
International Student Program  
Golden West College  
Spring 2009

# Golden West College International Student Program

Hours: M-Th 8 am- 5 pm, Fri. 8 am-3 pm (closed 12-1 daily)  
(714) 895-8146 (714) 895-8973 Fax

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[www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp](http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp)



What kinds of services can the International Student Program offer me?

- Admissions
- Orientation
- Registration
- Banking information
- Social Security guidance
- Department of Motor Vehicles information
- Housing /homestay
- On-going counseling (cultural adjustment, financial, academic)
- Information/guidance about Practical Training application
- Information/guidance about on-campus employment authorization
- Information/guidance about employment based on economic hardship
- Immigration/Visa-related services (change of status, reinstatement, etc.)
- Preparation for travel outside the U.S./passport & visa renewal info.
- Workshops/student activities/international student club

# Friendship with an American Host

Mary Beth Miller, Mary Jo Settles & Don/Sue Apgar (ISI):

International Students, Inc. (ISI) is a church-affiliated, volunteer organization in local communities throughout the U.S. They provide friendship partners and social gatherings to international students from many difference colleges.

[www.isioc.com](http://www.isioc.com)

- Educate Americans about your country/culture
- Learn about the American way of life
- Discover new and valuable friends...



# ACADEMIC PLANNING & PROCEDURES

Karen Hinton/Stephanie Dumont/Jimmy Nguyen

*Intl Student Academic Counselors*

- U.S. System of Education
- Academic Policies
- Counseling and the Matriculation Process
- <http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/counseling/>
- (714) 895-8119



# Specialized Services & Policies

*Javier Alcala, Immigration Technician, Intl Student Program*

- Immigration Requirements & Benefits
- Social Security Information
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

# Terms to Know

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USCIS - United States  
Citizenship and  
Immigration Service

I-94 - Arrival/Departure  
Record (white card in your  
passport)

I-20 - Certificate of  
Eligibility to study at an  
Institution in the U.S.

Visa Status - You must  
follow certain rules to  
maintain your F-1 status  
while you are in the U.S.  
(See F-1 requirements on  
page 7)

F-1 Visa - For entry to the  
U.S.

SEVIS - Student & Exchange  
Visitor Information System

# F-1 Requirements

*Caution: Students who do not maintain the following requirements will be out of status and considered unlawfully present in the U.S.*

- ✓ **Full-time - Must**  
complete 12 units each semester (Fall and Spring)  
(3 units minimum in Summer—term of admission only)
- ✓ **Valid I-20 - Check**  
section 5 for your expiration date
- ✓ **Current Passport - You**  
may renew your passport from within the U.S. Go to <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/index.htm> to find your consulate. For assistance, contact the Intl Student Program
- ✓ **Online Course Restriction**
- ✓ **Health Insurance -**  
Full medical coverage valid at all times. Insurance must be the school-approved policy. Private insurance is not accepted.
- ✓ **Current Address -**  
Report a change of address within 10 days to the GWC Intl Pgm
- ✓ **Do not work without**  
work authorization
- ✓ **Minimum G.P.A of 2.0**

# SEVIS

## Student & Exchange Visitor Information System

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- Student Tracking System required by USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services)
- Electronic Reporting requirements began Spring 2003
- Why?
- How does it work?

# If I maintain my status, I qualify for the following benefits:

- **Travel Signature** You will need a signature on page 3 of your I-20 from the Program Supervisor/Immigration Technician to reenter the U.S. Request this at least one week before you travel. To prepare for travel, go to  
  
[www.goldenwestcollege/isp/resources](http://www.goldenwestcollege/isp/resources)
- **On/Off-Campus Employment** -A minimum of one academic year is required to qualify for off-campus employment. Such requests/applications require an appointment with the International Student Program. All off-campus employment requires permission from USCIS. On-campus employment is subject to review of first semester grades and must be cleared by the International Student Program prior to accepting on-campus employment.
- **Practical Training**  
After one academic year of studies, you may qualify for 12 months of employment in your field of study. This requires permission from the USCIS. Such requests require workshop attendance and an appointment with the Immigration Technician. Plan ahead by at least 90 days before graduation. (Workshops will be offered throughout the Fall and Spring semesters.)

# More Benefits...

- **Program Extension**

If you have a valid reason (such as a change in major) to extend studies at *GWC*, request this by appointment through the Intl Program at least 30 days prior to the expiration date on your I-20. Bring updated financial support and a copy of your educational plan to extend your I-20.

- **Transfer Eligibility**

The university to which you will transfer is required to verify your status at *GWC* in order to issue your transfer I-20. The ISP requires your authorization to release your SEVIS record. Transfers must be completed no later than 60 days from *GWC* completion.

- **Concurrent Enrollment**

-If you are unable to find all necessary courses at *GWC*, you may request a permission letter from the Intl Program to take a course at another institution. This is rarely necessary, but is an option if a class that you need is full or cancelled. A recommendation from your academic counselor is required. There is a 6-unit maximum for concurrent enrollment.

# Social Security Information

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- A Social Security Card is not required of F-1 students for legal status.
- It is a useful form of identification for banking, the DMV, apartment living, etc.
- A social security card is required to work on campus. If you wish to work off-campus, you will require a work permit and a social security card. See practical training on page 9.
- Nursing/Cosmetology majors require a social security number for board licensing exams.

# How do I obtain a Social Security card?

## What are the steps?

### A social security card can only be issued for employment.

1. Obtain a job offer letter from your on-campus employer. The letter should be on GWC letterhead and include your job title, rate of pay, start date, general duties, and a signature. (A sample letter is available at the Intl Pgm)
2. Schedule an appointment at the ISP to obtain a social security status letter. Bring your passport, I-20, I-94, and employer letter.
3. Go to the local social security office. Bring your status letter, employer letter, I-20, Passport, and I-94. Complete the social security application (no fee).

Social Security Office  
17075 Newhope Street, Suite B  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
Hours: 9-4 Mon.-Fri.  
Phone: (714) 966-2466

4. Ask for a receipt at the time of application.
5. Allow 10-15 working days to receive the social security card by mail.
6. The Social Security Card does not authorize off-campus employment for International Students. You must apply for a work permit for Practical Training from Immigration if you wish to work off-campus.

# How do I obtain a Driver License?

## What are the steps?

1. Make an appointment at the local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Locations and information are available at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) or by calling (800) 777-0133. The DMV office closest to GWC is located at 13700 Hoover St., Westminster. Hours are M-F 9-5.
2. Submit your application to the DMV for your written and drive tests. Bring your I-20, passport, and I-94. **If you do not have a social security card, you should sign the box which says "not eligible for a social security card."**
3. You will receive a temporary driver's license. Call the DMV at (800) 777-0133 if you do not receive your permanent driver's license within 60 days.

Important: If you drive, the law requires you to carry car insurance. It is against the law to drive without car insurance.

# What about my International Driver License?

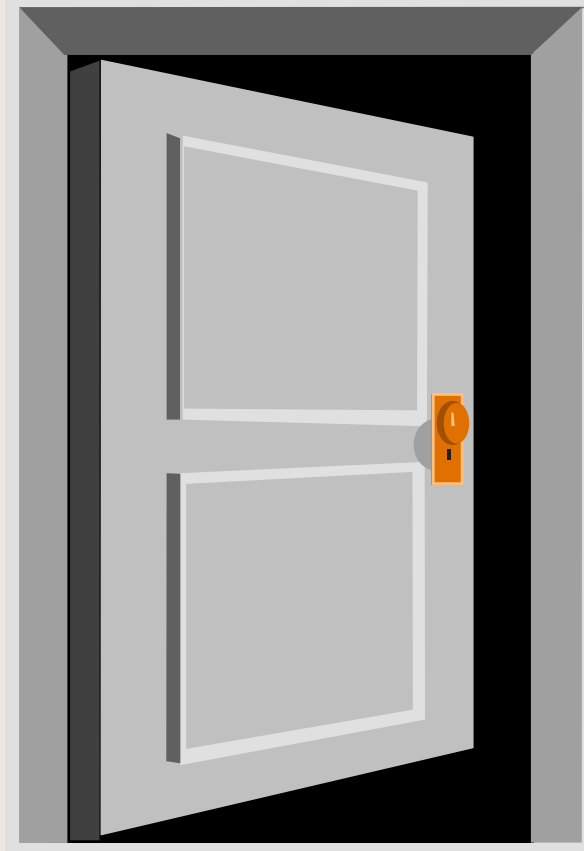
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- *The International Driver License is not accepted.*
- *If your license is from another country, you must take the driving test in California.*
- *Valid out-of-state licenses are accepted.*



# Housing Options

- Homestay Program
- Housing Board
- Apartment Listing





# Banking

- You should keep your money in a bank. It is the safest place for your money.
- Not safe to keep large amounts of money in your house, room or wallet.
- Ask about banking services such as using an automated teller machine (ATM) for quick cash at your branch and other ATM locations.
- Some checks for deposit require an 11-day hold to clear.
- Be aware of credit card limits and bank balances.

## To open an account:

- 1) Passport
- 2) Second form of photo ID (Driver license, GWC Student ID, or Calif. ID)
- 3) Provide home and local addresses
- 4) Social Security Card  
OR W-8 (Foreign Residence) form available at most banks

# Local Banks

GWC does not endorse one bank over another bank. Below is a brief list of local banks for your convenience only.


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- Bank of America  
7212 Edinger  
Huntington Beach  
(714) 375-5487
- Wells Fargo  
6952 Bolsa Ave.  
Huntington Beach  
(714) 898-3382
- Washington Mutual  
7830 Edinger Ave.  
Huntington Beach  
(714) 848-0014
- Union Bank  
16141 Beach Blvd.  
Huntington Beach  
(714) 847-9681

# International Student Testimonials

- New and continuing students share their stories...





# Adjusting to a new culture.

## The cycle of adjustment is natural...

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- Food
- Traditions/values
- Climate
- System of Education
- Transportation
- Religion
- Personal space
- Language
- Safety
- Homesickness
- Making new friends
- Seek out community/traditional foods/cultural opportunities
- Not wrong--just different
- Learn--become bicultural
- Ask for help!
- Use ISP, Counseling, Health Center, Student Activities, Tutoring, Writing Center for support
- Get involved/participate
- Give it time...



# International Student Club

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- Club Advisor: Peggy Conley  
(714) 895-8146 ext. 1  
[pconley@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:pconley@gwc.cccd.edu)
- Club Overview
- First Club Meeting: 2/6 at 12:00 noon



# Student Activities/Leadership Opportunities

Valerie Venegas, Student Activities Director

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- How to get involved at *GWC*
- Events and activities
- Phone: (714) 895-8261
- <http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/asgwc/>



# GWC Student Health Center

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Sylvia Worden, Health Center Director  
(714) 895-8379

- Overview of services
- How is the health center service different from my insurance?
- Hours and contact information



# Health Insurance

- Health care is expensive in the U.S.
- All GWC international students are required to maintain current medical insurance at all times.
- It is your responsibility to maintain insurance. ISP reminders are sent as a courtesy only.
- Insurance must be the school-approved policy. Private insurance is not accepted.
- Failure to renew your insurance (and/or bounced/returned payments) will result in registration delays and automatic drops from your classes.
- Be sure to carry your insurance ID card with you at all times.
- Consider dental insurance, too. (Policy info. available at the ISP.)



# Scholastic Insurance Services

Sharif T. Ossayran, President/Denise Jeanes, Customer Relations Supervisor  
(800) 537-1777

- What does my policy cover?
- How do I use my insurance?
- Services available, including the web...



# GWC Online Registration System

- [www.MyGWC.com](http://www.MyGWC.com)
- Login and password
- How to use the system

# International Student *Statement of Understanding*

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- Summary of key points
- Review/sign
- Keep for future review



# Golden West College



Welcomes You!