

## September ISSO Newsletter

Welcome or welcome “back” to a new semester! We in the ISSO wish you both a productive and an enjoyable semester. As always, our staff is available to provide information, services and programs that help international students to be successful and to have positive experiences here in the U.S. In addition, we are your first source for accurate and up-to-date immigration & employment information, so we hope that you will come to us with any questions you may have. Also, please remember to check out our website for all the latest information. [www.issu.uncc.edu](http://www.issu.uncc.edu)

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1. **Immunizations due NOW!**
2. **I-9 Employment Meeting for Recently Hired F1/J1 Students Fri. Aug. 28**
3. **Welcome Party for New International Students Fri. Aug. 28**
4. **'Yard Sale' with Campus International Fellowship Aug. 29**
5. **Reminder to Enroll FULLTIME by Sept. 2**
6. **International Coffee Hour Sept. 3 & 17**
7. **Make-Up Orientation & I-9 (for those who missed it) Sept. 4**
8. **Reminder: Monday, Sept. 7 is a holiday and UNC Charlotte is closed**
9. **Labor Day Cookout with Campus International Fellowship Sept. 7**
10. **Social Security Visit Sept. 11**
11. **OPT Information Sessions for Students Wishing to Apply for OPT (F-1 students) Sept. 18**

**12. Health Insurance Waivers due Sept. 25**

**13. Reminder to update your LOCAL address in 49er Express**

**14. Be a Cultural Ambassador – Teach Others about your Country!**

**15. Get Outdoors with Venture Programs!**

**16. Ifest 2009 – Represent Your Country!**

**17. Other Questions?**

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**1. Immunizations for new students due NOW!**

All international students are REQUIRED to turn-in their immunization (shot) records or get them completed upon admission to UNC Charlotte. If you wait until September 25<sup>th</sup> then your classes could be **cancelled**. The Student Health Center is located in #65 on your campus map <http://facilities.uncc.edu/FileManager/files/Maps/InteractiveUnccCampusMap.pdf>. For more information go to <http://studenthealth.uncc.edu/index.htm> .

**2. I-9 Employment Meeting for Recently Hired F1/J1 Students Fri. Aug. 28**

The ISSO will hold two more pre-scheduled meetings for any F1 or J1 student who has recently been hired and has not already completed the I-9 and tax paperwork. You MUST bring your passport, I-94 card and I-20 or DS-2019 to one of these meetings.

- Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in CHHS 295
- Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in CHHS 161

**3. Welcome Party for New International Students Fri. Aug. 28**

Come enjoy the tradition of gathering new and 'old' international students for games, refreshments, music and dancing! The fun begins at 7:30pm and ends at 11pm in Cone Center 'Afterhours' (downstairs).

**4. Yard Sale with Campus International Fellowship Aug. 29**

Looking for some inexpensive used items for your apartment or residence hall? Check out the famous 'Yard Sale' by Campus International Fellowship from 8:30am-12:30pm in parking lot 5A. Arrive between 7-8:30 to register for the best deals!

**5. Reminder to Enroll FULLTIME by Sept. 2**

Fulltime status is calculated as follows:

Undergraduate = 12 credit hours

Graduate = 9 credit hours;  
6 credit hours with Graduate School approved assistantship;  
or enrollment in 'thesis', 'project', 'dissertation' or  
'residency' upon completion of all required coursework.

- If you are a graduate student who is has a Graduate Assistantship, YOU MUST return your signed contract to the Graduate School immediately.
- If you are in your final semester of coursework and do not need a full course of study to graduate, then you MUST turn in a "Reduced Courseload Authorization Form" to the ISSO immediately. Stop-by the ISSO to pick-up this form. Without this form your status may be terminated.
- If you are unsure of your situation, please send an email to [intlssso@uncc.edu](mailto:intlssso@uncc.edu) for clarification.

#### **6. International Coffee Hour Sept. 3 & 17**

Fall semester has begun and that means International Coffee Hour is back! It is a great place to come, meet other students and relax with coffee, snacks and good conversation! It is always held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, and the first one of the semester is next **Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**! Take a friend with you or meet one there.

18. Where? The Prospector Faculty/Staff Dining Room

19. When? Anytime between 4 and 6pm

#### **7. Make-Up Orientation & I-9 (for those who missed it) Sept. 4**

International Student Orientation is REQUIRED for any new F1 or J1 international student. If you missed these programs held Aug. 18 & 20, then you must attend a 'make-up' meeting on Friday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm in CHHS room 161. Please bring your passport, I-94 and I-20 or DS-2019 at that time.

If you still need to complete I-9 employment & tax paperwork there will be another opportunity immediately following this meeting at 2pm in the same room.

#### **8. Reminder: Monday, Sept. 7 is a holiday and UNC Charlotte is closed on this day.**

#### **9. Labor Day Cookout with Campus International Fellowship Sept. 7**

Join Campus International Fellowship for an American-style cook-out in the West Quad (between Belk Gym & Cone Center), on Monday Sept. 7 (Labor Day) from 6-8pm. There will be food, games, and fun.

### **10. Social Security Visit Sept. 11**

Any student who works on campus must have a social security number. After completing the I-9 employment paperwork, an employment offer letter will be created for each student and should be picked-up in the ISSO by Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Chartwells and Barnes & Nobles will issue their own offer letters to their employees.

On Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> between 9:30-11:30am a representative from the Social Security Administration will be in CHHS 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge to accept applications. Please take the following with you for this meeting:

- your passport with I-94 card
- your I-20 or DS-2019
- your letter of employment

### **11. OPT Information Session for F1 Students Wishing to Apply for OPT Sept. 18**

Information Sessions will be held for August and December graduates or students in the thesis only portion of your program who are interested in applying for Optional Practical Training (work authorization in your field of study).

Any interested student must attend an information session, the first of which is scheduled for Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, location still to be determined – check [www.isso.uncc.edu](http://www.isso.uncc.edu) for updates. Other information sessions will be scheduled in October and November for December graduates. Check upcoming newsletters for those dates/times.

### **12. Health Insurance Waivers due Sept. 25**

Don't forget – submit your health insurance waiver by the end of the day on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> if you DO NOT wish to purchase the UNC Charlotte health insurance plan. If you do not submit a waiver by this date, you will automatically be billed for the full amount of the health insurance. Go to <http://www.healthsvcs.uncc.edu/> for more information.

### **13. Reminder to update your LOCAL/MAILING address in 49er Express**

New students living off-campus, if you haven't done so already, please update your LOCAL/MAILING address in 49er Express. Without this information, we can't report to USCIS that you are here and enrolled fulltime! This address needs to be where you are currently *residing* in the Charlotte area.

### **14. Be a Cultural Ambassador!**

The Cultural Ambassador program provides international students with an opportunity to educate UNC Charlotte students, faculty and staff about their culture and experience as international students in the US.

How does it work? When the ISSO staff is contacted by a professor or staff member we will notify a small group of international students who have signed-up

for this program and organize a panel with discussion questions. The panel discussion will be facilitated by an ISSO staff member and the audience may ask questions at the end. If you are interested in this opportunity, please send an email to [intlssso@uncc.edu](mailto:intlssso@uncc.edu) .

**15. Get Outdoors with Venture Programs!**

Explore your environment outside UNC Charlotte by joining one of the many programs offered by 'Venture'! From whitewater rafting and the high ropes challenge course to nature hikes, canoe, and camping trips there is something for everyone and it's also a great way to make new friends! Go to <http://venture.uncc.edu/venture> for more information.

**16. Ifest 2009 – Represent Your Country!**

UNC Charlotte's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Festival (Ifest) will be held on Saturday, **September 26th**. This event is attended by nearly 10,000 people in Charlotte and beyond, and over 50 countries are represented each year! For more information on how to participate, send an email to Marian Beane, Chair of the Ifest Committee at [mebeane@uncc.edu](mailto:mebeane@uncc.edu) .

**17. Other Questions?**

If you have other questions that we did not address in this newsletter, please let us know! Send an email to Denise Medeiros [dvmedei@uncc.edu](mailto:dvmedei@uncc.edu) or Marian Beane [mebeane@uncc.edu](mailto:mebeane@uncc.edu) or schedule an appointment by emailing [intlssso@uncc.edu](mailto:intlssso@uncc.edu) or by calling 704-687-7781.