July is Coming!

OK, so it's still freezing outside,...but before you know it the start of the new appointment year will be upon us (July 1st.) Now is the time to start the immigration process for new appointments and for extensions. J-1 extensions can be processed in ISD and for H-1B extensions please contact your advisor directly. We all benefit from getting these cases done well in advance. Thank you!

What's New?

Tax Guidance for Scholars

OISS has purchased a new tax software product (FNTR) to help some international scholars to complete their tax filing. Anyone holding a Yale sponsored visa will need to file some tax forms with the IRS even if they had no U.S. earnings (in order to prove that they don't owe taxes.) Before the end of February J-1 scholars will be sent an e-mail from OISS with information about how to access the tax software. OISS tax information is also provided on our website.

Thinking about other cultures

Here is an interesting web resource that looks at some holidays in other parts of the world. Its a fun way to reflect on cultural differences and similarities since many world regions have special holidays. Why do some people in the U.S. celebrate a holiday with a French name, by dancing in the streets (Mardi Gras) and the next day put ash on their foreheads? If you feel inspired you may
consider asking one of your international scholars about some holidays that are unique to their part of the world.

Learning from each other

We would like to learn from host departments about current issues and best practices when with appointments and visa sponsorship. At the same time we can give you updates on new trends in State Department, Department of Labor and USCIS procedures. Please contact your OISS advisor and arrange a time for an individual, small or large group information session today!

Announcements

J-1 "Subpart A" English language proficiency: This new rule only applies to new J-1 scholars coming to Yale. If you are extending the record for an existing J-1 scholar please check the box "Transfer or extension" in ISD.

Wednesday February 18th: Visiting Attorney Greg Siskind

Twice a year OISS invites a notable immigration attorney to speak with international scholars about visa options beyond the scope of OISS visa sponsorship. This event has already been announced and many scholars are signed up to attend, and you are welcome to join as well!

Fact or Fiction?

"The H-1B prevailing wage can go up... or down, but it always changes each year on July 1st"

Those of you who have been burdened by the H-1B visa preparation process know there is this mysterious thing called "Prevailing Wage." Each year the Department of Labor publishes new wages based on survey data they collect. Sometimes the wage goes down sometimes due to various survey data criteria (not because employers are paying less), but more often the wage goes up.

So get your new H-1B requests in now before the new Prevailing
If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter please contact parker.emerson@yale.edu

**OISS Newsletter**
Every week, we send subscribers an email highlighting events and information for the Yale international community.

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Have an event or story you’d like to share on the OISS weekly newsletter? We review and edit submissions before publication.

**Submit Your Event**

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