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I. WELCOME & WELCOME BACK!!

The International Services Office would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning students to the University of Rochester! With another academic year upon us, we are thrilled to see so many students back on campus and hope you will stop by the ISO as needed or just to say hello. Please remember that it is best to schedule an appointment ahead of time for issues or concerns that you would like to discuss with an advisor.

If you are new to UR, this will also be your introduction to "ISO News", our electronic newsletter. This is our primary means of communication for upcoming events, changes to U.S. regulations, and reminders about immigration responsibilities and benefits. New issues are sent to your current UR email address. If you prefer using a personal account, please be sure to forward your campus email so you will continue to receive this important resource.

II. IMPORTANT START-OF-TERM REMINDERS

Just a few reminders that international students should stay aware of:

- * **All F-1 and J-1 students must maintain full-time registration each term.** If you will need to take a reduced course load, please make an appointment to see an International Student Advisor *before* you drop below your required credits.
- * **International students must have appropriate employment authorization *before* they begin working.** F-1 and J-1 students are allowed to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the school year while maintaining their immigration status. Any other employment, both on- and off-campus, must be specifically authorized and documented. Questions on your work permissions or limitations should be directed to an ISO advisor.
- * **Keep your immigration & other records up-to-date.** Make sure that you maintain a valid travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 for the current academic year. If you have renewed

or extended your passport, please submit a copy to ISO. Also, remember to update your GLACIER record with required address info, travel dates, and UR employment details.

III. ISO OFFICE HOURS: RIVER CAMPUS & EASTMAN SCHOOL

The ISO is located at 209 Morey Hall, River Campus. The office is open 9 am to noon & 1 pm to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Students may stop by during these hours to discuss small matters, request forms or letters, or receive an updated travel signature. Other issues will require additional time and students should call ahead to schedule an appointment at 585-275-2866. Appointments will not be available on Wednesday mornings to allow for document processing.

An ISO advisor will also be available at the Eastman School of Music on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 and Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 pm in Room 506 of the main building. Students planning to stop by during these hours should call ahead to the ISO (275-2866) so we are able to bring your file and offer better advising. Many forms and handouts are available on the ISO website and for pick-up in Room 506, even when an advisor is not available. If you need assistance at other times, Eastman students are welcome to make an appointment at our River Campus location as well.

IV. ENGLISH COURSES OFFERED THROUGH OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The College of Arts and Sciences offers classes specifically designed for students whose first language is not English. These courses, taught entirely in English, are designed to help with accent reduction, grammar, conversation and much more. Registrations are currently being accepted! For more information, please visit www.rochester.edu/osp or contact the Office of Special Programs at osp@rochester.edu. Fall courses include:

U.S. Culture and Society I: Conversation, Grammar, and Reading is for nonnative speakers of English who wish to improve their speaking and listening proficiency and review basic English grammar, reading, and writing skills. Classes are organized around directed conversations about relevant topics in U.S. culture & society. Course begins September 30th.

Pronunciation and Accent Reduction: This course emphasizes the pronunciation of vowels and consonants of English as well as the principles of intonation, rhythm, and stress in the English language. Students should have a moderate to advanced level of English fluency and proficiency in conversational speech. Classes begin October 27, 2008.

V. RIC SPOTLIGHT: TOUR OF ROCHESTER'S PUBLIC MARKET, SEPT. 20TH

The Rochester International Council (RIC) is a local community group dedicated to bringing Rochester's local international students and families together with the community to develop friendships and promote understanding. We hope that you will become involved and join in the many social and educational events that RIC has to offer throughout the year. Please visit their website at www.rifc.org for more information. Each issue of "ISO News" will feature a section highlighting RIC's upcoming events and various programs.

September 20th: Public Market Tour! The Rochester Public Market has been in operation for over a century, with over 300 vendor stalls offering fresh produce, ethnic foods, and many other specialty items. Local farms come to sell their goods at inexpensive prices and many are open to bargaining. Come discover this great Rochester tradition for yourself! Please sign up with RIC by Monday, September 15th (229 Morey Hall).

VI. *CAMPUS FOCUS*: CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS (9/13)

Join in the excitement of Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations on September 13th, starting at 7 pm in Strong Auditorium on River Campus. Festivities will include traditional and modern dance, Chinese opera, music, and drama! A reception will also follow. This program has become a wonderful annual event at UR and is hosted by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association at University of Rochester (CSSAUR), the Chinese Students Association (CSA), and the Chinese Federation of Greater Rochester (CFGR), and is sponsored in part by the ISO. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children under 12. For more information, please visit their website at: <http://moonfestival2008.blogspot.com>.

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