

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. APPLY NOW FOR F-1 OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING**
- II. REMINDER: 2008 TAX FORMS MUST BE MAILED BY TOMORROW, 4/15!**
- III. NEED TO REPORT A CHANGE TO YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM??**
- IV. RIC SPOTLIGHT: ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, SUNDAY 4/19**
- V. CAMPUS FOCUS: MCKENZIE LECTURE, "IMMIGRATION & INEQUALITY"**

I. APPLY NOW FOR F-1 OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

ATTENTION: Graduating students in F-1 status!! If you want to work in the U.S. after you've completed your UR degree requirements, you should apply for your OPT work authorization early, to allow enough time for USCIS to process your application. You may not begin any employment until your OPT has been granted. Currently, USCIS is processing OPT applications after 2 to 3 months. We recommend that you schedule an appointment to discuss your plans with an advisor in the ISO at least 3 months before you plan to complete your studies.

II. REMINDER: 2008 TAX FORMS MUST BE MAILED BY TOMORROW, 4/15!

International students who were present in the U.S. during any portion of 2008 must comply with Federal and State tax filing requirements. Tomorrow, **April 15th**, is the deadline for most tax forms to be postmarked for delivery to the Internal Revenue Service and appropriate state agencies. The required forms will depend on your residency status for tax purposes, your U.S. earnings in 2008, and eligibility for any treaty benefits. More information can be found on the ISO's website at: <http://www.iso.rochester.edu/taxes.htm>.

III. NEED TO REPORT A CHANGE TO YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM??

The ISO recognizes that plans change all the time and many students find a need to update their immigration records to reflect their new situation. This time of year, we see a lot of these! Please check the list below to see what steps you might need to take to maintain your status. You are encouraged to meet with an ISO Student Advisor to discuss what options might be available to you. More information and all necessary forms are available online (www.iso.rochester.edu).

- **Finishing Early?** If you will complete your studies prior to the completion date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019, please let us know right away. The date listed on these forms for immigration purposes can have a serious impact on your ability to receive UR payments, your eligibility for U.S. work permission, and your reporting requirements to SEVIS.
- **Need More Time?** If you are not able to finish your course of study by the date listed on your immigration documents, you must file for a Program Extension *before* that date passes. Failure to do so will mean a violation of your immigration status.
- **Beginning a New Program at UR?** If you plan to continue your studies in a new academic program at UR, you must request a Change of Level. Please coordinate with your department in completing the New Student Request form and contact Molly Jolliff (molly.jolliff@iso.rochester.edu) with any questions on this process. You should also discuss any travel or employment plans you may have over the summer.
- **Attending a Different School?** If you plan to begin full-time studies at a new school, you may need to request that your SEVIS record be released through an Immigration Transfer, using the Student Departure Form (available online). You should also discuss your work and travel plans with an advisor, both at UR and the new school.

IV. RIC SPOTLIGHT: ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, SUNDAY 4/19

The Rochester International Council will be holding its 52nd Annual RIC Awards Dinner this Sunday, April 19th, at the Daisy Flour Mill. The evening will feature a social hour, international buffet dinner, and guest speaker Hoffman Moka Lantum, MD, PhD. Dr. Lantum is the Director of Medical Services for Excellus BCBS and the founder of the Baobab Cultural Center in Rochester (www.thebaobab.org). He is also a University of Rochester alumnus and professor at RIT's Saunders College of Business. More details are posted on RIC's website: www.rifc.org.

The Rochester International Council (RIC) is a community-based volunteer organization that provides services to international students & Department of State visitors in the Rochester area.

V. CAMPUS FOCUS: MCKENZIE LECTURE, “IMMIGRATION & INEQUALITY”

David Card, professor of Economics at University of California Berkeley, will deliver this year's McKenzie Lecture next Wednesday, April 22nd. Professor Card's talk is titled “Immigration and Inequality”, highlighting his research interests on the economic impacts of immigration. The lecture will be held in 318/418 Gleason Hall, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. This series is hosted annually by graduate students in the Department of Economics and honors Lionel McKenzie, Wilson Professor Emeritus, for his outstanding contribution to the field of economics and life-long commitment to the Rochester Ph.D. program.