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**I. GRADUATING SOON? TIME TO THINK ABOUT WORK PERMISSION!**

If you plan to finish your academic program this term, you should also be thinking about whether you plan to work in the U.S. after you are done. If so, you must be approved for the appropriate work authorization *before* you begin working. For many students, this requires planning ahead and submitting required application materials several months before they actually complete their studies. Additionally, if you plan to work in the U.S. longer than your F-1 OPT or J-1 Academic Training will allow, the decisions you make now can have important impact on your options for U.S. work permission later on. Please phone the ISO at 275-2866 to schedule an appointment with an advisor as soon as possible. We will review your individual situation and help you in planning for a transition from full-time student to authorized worker over the next few months!

**II. STUDY ABROAD & GRADUATE RESEARCH OVERSEAS**

Students who are authorized to pursue their studies for a semester or year outside of the U.S. may be able to maintain their F-1 or J-1 status during this time. Such students will continue to accrue time in valid status and remain eligible for various immigration benefits, such as Optional Practical Training or Academic Training. However, established procedures must be followed to ensure that this information is accurately reported in SEVIS and that you have the necessary documents to travel during periods of authorized study abroad. If you are currently overseas but have continued enrollment in your academic program during this time, please contact the ISO by email to see that your record is updated. More information can be found on our website.

### III. COURSES AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

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.

- **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 and society and begin January 20, 2009.
- **U.S. Culture and Society II** is a continuation of U.S. Culture and Society I, with additional topics of discussion and more advanced language. Completion of U.S. Culture and Society I is not required for enrollment. Classes begin March 17, 2009.
- **Pronunciation and Accent Reduction** 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 February 2, 2009.

Registrations are currently being accepted! For more information, please visit [www.rochester.edu/osp](http://www.rochester.edu/osp) or contact the Office of Special Programs at [osp@rochester.edu](mailto:osp@rochester.edu).

### IV. STAYING WARM IN OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Brrrrr ... Living off campus and feeling a little chilly? Your landlord has a responsibility to provide adequate heat in your apartment! Between October 1st and May 31st, a period designated as "Heat Season" in New York State, landlords are required to provide tenants with heat under the following conditions:

- Between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least **68 degrees Fahrenheit**; and,
- Between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM, if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least **55 degrees Fahrenheit**.

If your landlord is not providing adequate heat, first let your landlord know you feel cold. If the heat *still* seems inadequate after reporting it to your landlord, contact Robin Doughty, Coordinator for Off Campus Living Programs in UR Residential Life at (585) 275-1081 or [rdoughty@reslife.rochester.edu](mailto:rdoughty@reslife.rochester.edu). Robin can connect you with your Neighborhood Service Center (NSC). Your NSC can talk to your landlord about providing adequate heat, and they can send an inspector to your house to measure the temperature if necessary. If the heat still is not adequate after a second inspection, the issue will be reported as a code violation that the landlord *must* correct.

Off Campus Living Programs can help you sort through housing options, understand your rights and responsibilities as a tenant, review your lease with you, and help mediate problems with your landlord. Contact **Robin Doughty** with questions about your heat or any other off campus living issues: (585) 275-1081 or [rdoughty@reslife.rochester.edu](mailto:rdoughty@reslife.rochester.edu).

## **V. RIC SPOTLIGHT: COUNTRY LINE DANCE & CHILI DINNER, FRIDAY 1/30**

The Rochester International Council's annual Country Western Line Dance is this Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 9 pm! The program will be held at the Brighton Town Lodge, at 777 Westfall Road and will include a traditional western dinner of chili and corn bread, all free to international students, scholars, and their families. Line dancing is a popular dance form for young and old, experienced and first-timers alike, with foot stomping and hand slapping done to traditional Country Western music and disco beats. Dress casually – jeans and a t-shirt are fine – and wear comfortable shoes with a smooth sole (sneakers are difficult to dance in). Please see the attached flyer for more information.

*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.*

## **VI. CAMPUS FOCUS: (en)GENDERED ART EXHIBIT, THROUGH FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Check out the works of fellow UR students in this annual art exhibit, currently on display in the Gallery at the Art & Music Library, on the ground floor of Rush Rhees Library! When it comes to getting inside the ever-changing roles of gender in society, there is perhaps no better view than through the window that art can provide. Such is the challenge taken on annually by (en)Gendered: Identity, Gender and Art, a juried exhibit of art created by University of Rochester undergraduate students. The exhibit is free and open to the public from January and into February each year. (<http://www.rochester.edu/College/WST/undergrad/engendered.html>)

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