

WEEKLY UPDATE – Feb. 20

Living and Lifestyle

In this week's newsletter, our office is highlighting international student living and lifestyle. See the information below about housing, both on and off campus, as well as upcoming workshops and social events!

On-Campus Housing

Student Housing is now accepting housing applications for current undergraduate and graduate students who want to live on campus during the 2023-24 academic year. The continuing student housing sign-up deadline is **March 1 at 11:59 p.m.** Please note that submitting a housing application confirms the student will receive a lottery room selection time but does not guarantee a bed space. The only exception is for rising second-year students (Class of 2026) because they are part of the two-year housing guarantee. It's strongly encouraged that all continuing students visit the **Continuing Students web page** as well as the **Contracts and Documents web page** to view the housing contracts associated with the application.

Learn more about **Student Housing** »

Off-Campus Living

If you are interested in renting an apartment in the Bay Area, the **Office for Off-Campus Living (OCL)** offers resources to assist you. You can review rental listings on the **USF rental website** or search these **additional rental websites**. Keep in mind that the student rental market in San Francisco has become more available in the past year, so this might be a good option for you. **Learn more about OCL** »

Our student staff SF picks!

Speaking of living in the Bay Area, we have compiled a list of ISSS student staff members' favorite SF spots! Check out some of their favorite restaurants and activities in San Francisco!

- Stop by **Mensho Tokyo** for arguably the best ramen in SF
- Try the fried chicken and black bean noodles at **San Tung** (order take-out)
- Play a round of mini-golf at **Urban Putt**
- Eat dinner at **Arabian Nights** in the Mission District
- Explore the shops and restaurants in **Japantown**
- Escape to a unique urban oasis at the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**
- Stop by **Stella Pastry** for some Italian baked goods



H1-B Workshop

Are you interested in learning about your options to remain in the U.S. after you complete your studies? At this workshop, a local immigration attorney will present information on employment options for F-1 students after the completion of their programs.

The workshop will take place via Zoom on **Monday, Feb. 27 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. PST.**

Register for the event »



How to Write an Invitation Letter for Graduation

We have prepared some guidelines and a **template letter** to help students invite their family or friends to visit them. Sometimes a family member or friend may want an invitation letter from the student to help verify their intentions to visit the U.S. and support their tourist visa. Students are able to write this letter themselves and can request a Certificate of Enrollment from the **Student Enrollment Services office** to include with their invitation letter and prove their student status.



INTERVIEWING 101

Monday, Feb. 27 at 4:30 p.m. PST

Online via Zoom

Hosted by Elena Stiger, **SHE-CAN** volunteer, human resources manager at Comcast, facilitator, and leadership coach.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Undergo intensive interview preparation to help you wow the hiring manager.

Register here »



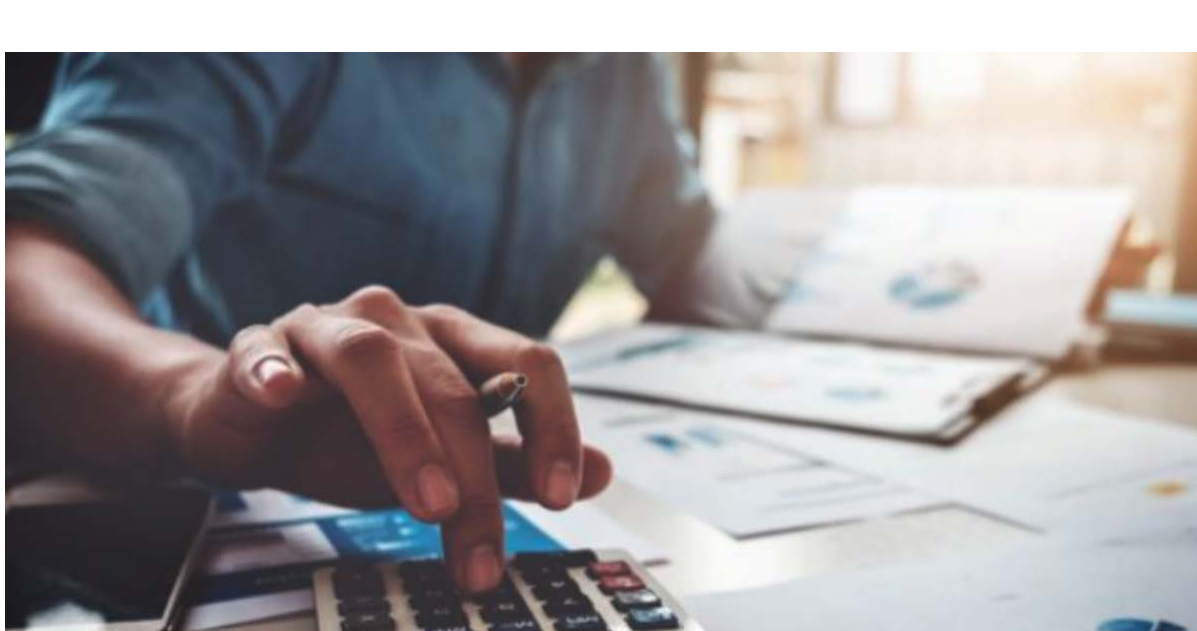
Job Fest Prep Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

McLaren Conference Center - Room 250

All workshop attendees will receive an early access VIP pass that will allow them to skip the crowd and be first to meet with employers at the in-person JOB FEST.

Learn more or register here »



Financial Planning Tool

The Office of Financial Aid provides interactive counseling tools to connect students with financial resources. They have partnered with **WhichWay**, a financial literacy platform designed to help students understand how to manage personal finances and money.

WhichWay is a free, web-based resource for students and alumni to learn the concepts important to financial literacy and wellness. WhichWay offers a series of short course modules designed to educate students on topics such as the basics of budgeting, setting goals, understanding credit and applying for financial aid.

Learn more and register »

ISSS OFFICE RESOURCES

Requesting a Document from ISSS?

If you are requesting an immigration document or letter from our office, remember that we request **ten business days** to process requests. Make sure you plan accordingly so you have enough time to request your document before you need it. All ISSS requests should be submitted through the **MyISSS student portal** (select the home icon, site home, and then requests on the left-hand menu). You can view our **MyISSS Student Handbook** for assistance with your submission.

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

Appointments can be made online. Please visit the **ISSS website** to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 15-minute increments. To schedule a workshop, select workshops from the first menu option in our scheduler. Students must complete an OPT workshop before applying for OPT.

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