

# Office of International Students & Scholars

# NEWSLETTER

April/May 2024, Vol. 6

## What's in this issue:

### Get in the Know

*We asked Dr. Sabeen Sheikh, Director of TC NEXT 3 questions about how to secure a job after graduation.*

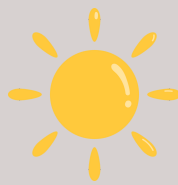
### Get Famous: Academic Training

*An interview with Obedrey Willys '24, Adult Learning and Leadership*

### Get Social

*Find out what's happening in April & May*

*Summer is just around the corner*



*What do you need to do to maintain your F-1/J-1 status? Enroll in classes? Enjoy the sun? Test your knowledge!*



**Write for us!**



*We're all ears. Just send us a pitch at [tcintl@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:tcintl@tc.columbia.edu).*

# Get in the Know



## Tips for the Job Search

We spoke with Dr. Sabeen Sheik, Director of TC NEXT, about 3 essential tips for a successful job search. Read on to find out how to get that offer. For more guidance, connect with TC NEXT and check out their very helpful resources and events.

### ***1. How do you suggest students begin their job search?***

Strategizing! This entails anticipating and planning for the nuances of your particular job search. Values, location, field, benefits, fit, and industry are essential. It is also a good idea to research the economic landscape of your field to understand the current trends and climate to be mindful of. We all know that networking is a major component of the job search. Specifically, for international students, it is good to understand the e-verification process of employers and research those who have sponsored employees in the past. TC NEXT is a great resource and, of course, meeting with one of our Career Coaches can be beneficial. Interstride is a new platform for international students who are job searching.

### ***2. What are some common missteps to avoid?***

Two common missteps are (1) not appropriately planning your job search and (2) sending in applications with little direction. It is important to plan out what roles, industries, and areas you want to work in. Researching the organization supports in tailoring your documents to the role, and understanding if the organization will be open to taking OPT/AT.

### ***3. What's the secret to getting an offer?***

There is no secret! It is about thinking ahead, knowing your plan, and being consistent.

# Get Famous: Obedrey Willys



Obredrey Willys is a current student in the M.A. in Adult Learning & Leadership program here at TC. While pursuing a course of study, Obedrey is also working as a Learning & Leadership Intern at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in New York, under Academic Training.

***Do you think AT has been a valuable experience for you so far? Why or why not?***

I would say yes, because AT provided the opportunity to apply and practice theoretical knowledge from the classroom into real-world contexts and work with professionals in the field. This is a gold opportunity especially for international students to get practical and professional exposure in the USA.

***Can you give some advice to international students who are thinking about applying for OPT/AT?***

Prepare yourself by focusing on three aspects: personal, procedure, and exploration. It means, go update your CV, explore your interest and expertise, and also practice for the interview (personal); allocate proper time to comply with AT requirement and paperwork with the OISS and employer (procedure); and explore all the relevant channels to get information about the job opportunities and requirements (exploration).

# Get Social

Here's what's happening in April and May! Click the event title for more info.

## **Therapeutic Writing & Emotions**

April 17 | 2-4PM | HM 144 | GSLD

Negative emotions are an essential and authentic part of the human experience. This new workshop will explore the role that emotions, both positive and negative, play in our lives.

## **Closing the Deal: Salary Negotiation & Accepting an Offer**

April 18 | 12 - 1PM | Virtual | TC NEXT

TC NEXT will discuss the best practices for negotiating your compensation and understanding market value for various roles and organizations.

## **Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**

April 25 | 2-:345PM | HM 138 | OGE & ODCA

This hands-on workshop will explore the beauty and spiritual significance of Arabic calligraphy, an art form that has been cherished across centuries in the Arab world. The event will include a live music performance and delicious Arab cookies and tea.

## **Peace & Education Symposium**

April 25 | 9AM-1PM | Millbank Chapel | OGE

This conference intends to delve into the crucial role that peace building plays, particularly its intersection with international education, and discuss ways in which universities can support international human rights and peacebuilding.

## **New York Baseball Game**

May 4 | 7-10PM | the Bronx, NY | \$25  
Hosted by One to World

Watch the world famous New York Yankees play the Oakland A's in the Bronx, NY. Learn the game of baseball together and talk with other students who attend universities in the New York area! Who knows, maybe you will catch a foul ball to take home as a souvenir!

## **The Great Saunter**

May 4 | 7AM - 7PM | Fraunces Tavern | \$25  
Hosted by One to World

Experience NYC via this epic urban hike: a 32-mile walk around the circumference of Manhattan, that is both a physical and mental challenge! To learn more about this event and route, please visit the official website [here](#).

## **Mt. Taurus in Cold Spring, NY**

March 23 | 8am - 5pm | \$16  
Hosted by One to World

Escape the city and experience some incredible views in Cold Spring, New York! Go for a serious hike and explore all the antique shops, cafes, and waterfront views that Cold Spring has to offer.