

Office of International Students & Scholars

NEWSLETTER

February/March 2023, Vol. 1

Welcome to the First Issue!

Welcome to Spring 2023 at Teachers College! For those who are returning, welcome back! We hope your new year is off to a great start. 2023 is a special year for the Office of International Students & Scholars... because we're launching this newsletter for the TC international community. You're reading the inaugural issue right now!

Before you get too caught up in your studies, we'd like to (re)-introduce ourselves and tell you about what to expect in this newsletter.

We are the OISS, a department that supports the needs of individuals whose F-1 and J-1 status is sponsored by TC. Our job is to make

sure that you're maintaining your status so that you can study and even work here stress-free. We do this in a number of ways:

- By making information related to maintaining F-1 and J-1 status available, both through our website and employment workshops.
- By advising you on a concern related to status or employment. Just send us an email or attend one of our advising meetings to get started!
- By processing documents that you may need, such as for employment.

We also organize fun events to bring the international community together.

From visa concerns to cultural adjustment,

international students and scholars have a lot to manage. We understand. In fact, we ourselves have studied and worked outside of our home countries, including as international students in the U.S. We've also experienced firsthand just how special it is to be part of an international community.

And this community deserves a voice. In this newsletter, you'll find useful tips and information, read about other students' and alumnae's experiences, and enter a quiz for a chance to win prizes. Thanks for reading. We hope you'll stick around!

--The OISS Team

This semester (Spring 2023) there are 1,294 actively enrolled international students at TC. That's a lot!



Get to Know Us

We're the people who advise and guide you on matters related to F-1 and J-1 status, including maintaining status in terms of registration, employment, travel, and more!

Patricia Gibson



Senior Associate Director

As the Senior Associate Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars, I advise and support our visiting scholars, J-1 exchange visitors, and F-1 students. When I'm not wearing my OISS hat, I enjoy watching horror films and Japanese TV dramas, researching airplane routes, watching the take-off and landing of airplanes, kickboxing, and kyudo.

Denis Dyshko



Assistant Director

I'm very excited to be part of TC's OISS student advising team. Having come to the United States as an international student myself, I like learning about our students -- things like where they came from and interesting details about their home country and customs. When you meet with me, we might end up having a small side conversation. In my spare time, I love traveling around the world and spending time with family and friends.

Hyunjin Yeo



Assistant Director

As the Assistant Director of the OISS, I support F-1 and J-1 students in advising, document processing, programming, and more. I enjoy supporting international students because I understand what it's like to be one. In fact, I was called into secondary inspection (despite valid documents!), bugged my parents for financial documents for an I-20, and so on. Also, I have a secret mission: to pronounce your name correctly! If I don't, please teach me and I'll try my best!

Brian Arenas



International Student Advisor

My duty as the International Student Advisor is to advise and support international students. I hope to be part of that supporting group of people to help make the experience of studying abroad as enjoyable as possible. In my day-to-day life, I enjoy learning about different cultures through food, music, and travel. Some travel places on my bucket list are The Philippines, Côte d'Ivoire, and South Africa!

Allison Payne



International Student Coordinator

As the International Student Coordinator, I'm likely to be your first point of contact when you reach out to our office! I like helping international students because learning about and respecting the many cultures on this planet is important. In my free time, I study languages, read, swim, and continue my never-ending search for the best cup of coffee in NYC (so far, The Coppola Cafe is in the lead).

Caylyn Bodger



Administrative Fellow

I am a current student in the International Educational Development Program in the International and Comparative Education Department. I am from Florida and have been in NYC for two years. At the OISS, I support staff and students in the office and organize events for the international community at TC. In my spare time, I enjoy catching up with family and friends, watching my favorite beauty Youtubers, and cooking and trying new foods.

How to contact us

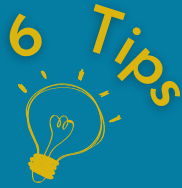
Please reach out to us if you have questions or concerns!

Email: tcintl@tc.columbia.edu

Phone: 212-678-3939

Or come to our Advising Hours, or make an appointment!

How to Use OISS Services



From Patricia:

"My friend told me..." We hear this a lot from students, but unfortunately, every student case is different; what might be true for your friend may not be applicable to you. Please check with us if you have questions or concerns.

From Hyunjin:

Plan ahead! If students don't come to us early enough, the options we can suggest are limited. If you share your concerns or plans early with us, we may be able to provide you with better suggestions.

From Denis:

Keep in mind OISS's processing procedures when submitting requests and applications, and plan ahead. That way, we'll be able to process the requests faster, and you'll receive your documents when you need them.

From Brian:

If you're interested in F-1/J-1 employment benefits, the first step is to join our employment workshops offered throughout the semester. We break down the eligibility requirements, application process, and provide important details.

From Allison:

If you're facing an issue related to your F-1/J-1 status and you're not sure where to start, give us a call. Either Caylyn or I myself will be happy to direct you to the right person or resources.

From Caylyn:

Read the OISS's website. It is very informative and may be able to answer your question when advisors are busy.



"You are the designer of your destiny, you are the author of your story." Lisa Nichols

Get Famous

How can you have a great first semester at TC? We asked our spectacular student volunteers for advice!



Fatima Rizwan
Clinical Psychology

One little piece of advice I would offer is: don't worry, everything will work out.

As exciting as it is to receive an abundance of opportunities, be selective in pursuing what is compatible with your interests and schedule. TC is a great launch pad for life, with amazing faculty, staff, and friendships - savor every moment with them.



Novia Hoki Anditya
Mathematics Education

Explore, collect and enjoy moments not things. Still, don't forget to be responsible and study hard.

A special shout out to our New International Student Welcome Day volunteers:

Fatima Rizwan Novia Hoki Anditya
Jonggeun Park Nicole Nesci Ha Ngyuen
Yihua Shen & Alicia Elias-Caballero

Thank you for all of your help & support! 😊

Get Informed

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to submit your results to compete for a small prize! Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.



1. Who needs to check in at the beginning of the semester?

- a) New students only.
- b) All F-1/J-1 students.
- c) Students who traveled outside of U.S.
- d) Everyone, regardless of immigration status, and their dog.

2. How should the check in be done?

- a) By emailing OISS.
- b) By stopping by OISS office.
- c) By submitting a check-in form on TC-Compass.
- d) By attending my first class.

3. Do all F-1/J-1 students need to file taxes?

- a) Only students who have worked.
- b) It depends; check filing requirements on OISS website.
- c) No, only U.S. citizens need to file taxes.
- d) Only if I feel like it.

4. When is the deadline to file taxes?

- a) April 18.
- b) March 18.
- c) As soon as possible.
- d) February 31.

5. What's the first step to obtain employment as an F-1/J-1 student?

- a) Look at job postings online or ask people I know.
- b) Attend an employment workshop with OISS.
- c) Submit an On-Campus Employment Authorization Letter request to OISS.
- d) Ask my academic advisor if I can legally work in the United States.

Get Social

Time to get out and socialize. Here's what's happening in NYC/Columbia/TC in February and March! Click the event title for more info.

[Anchorage, Babel in Reverse](#)

Feb 1 - April 30
DUMBO Archway (155 Water Street,
Brooklyn)
Free

In this interactive light and sound art installation, motion-activated speakers light up and play snippets of poetry, song, and prose in hundreds of languages, many of which are endangered.

[History through Music: Protest & Freedom Songs with Tahira Clayton](#)

February 25 @ 4-5pm
Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
Price: \$8 suggested donation

To celebrate Black History Month, come to BCM to learn to sing and explore the meaning of protest and freedom songs from before and after the American Civil War. This is part of a curriculum that is currently being used in an elementary school.

[Off-Broadway Week](#)

February 13 - March 5
50% off tickets

“Off-Broadway” refers to theater and performances that are not major Broadway productions – but don’t let that discourage you. Many of these plays feature top quality acting and writing that wins the praises of NYC’s intellectual circles – and you can see them 50% off the original price.

[Campus to Career: Public Speaking Workshop](#)

March 3 @ 12-1pm
Free

Public speaking is a crucial skill for both students and professionals to master. In this online workshop, One to World is inviting a professional speech to teach you the fundamentals of speaking in front of an audience.

[International Student Career Support with Interstride](#)

March 20 @ 2-3:30
Virtual

Join OISS and TC NEXT to learn about the comprehensive resource for international students and global opportunities. Hear about H1-B visa transitions from actual TC alumni!

[JAPAN Fes.](#)

March 26
Location: East Village (see website for further details)

The largest Japanese food festival in the world! Eat your way through dozens of vendors with Japanese-inspired cuisine at an affordable price, as live music and dance performances entertain you.

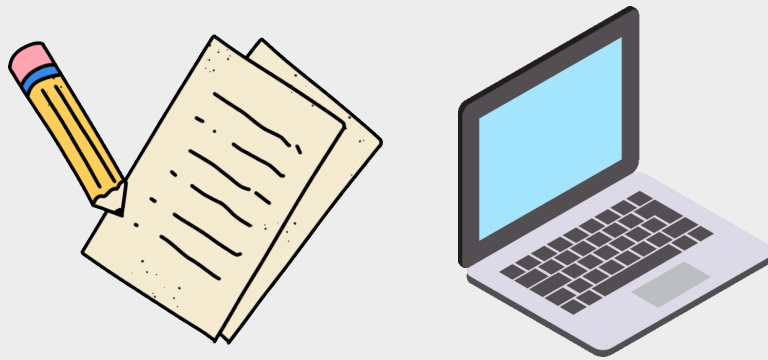
[Private Tour of the New York Public Library](#)

March 30 @ 4-5:30pm
\$10-15

The NYPL is the second largest library in the U.S., right behind the Library of Congress. One to World is offering this affordable tour of a historic landmark.

Get Involved

If you have any thoughts or suggestions about what you'd like to see in this newsletter, we're all ears. Just send us an email at tcintl@tc.columbia.edu.



Help us pick a name!

Do you have any ideas for what we should call this newsletter? Email them to tcintl@tc.columbia.edu. To show our appreciation, the winner will get a prize!

Penny for your thoughts?

What's on your mind? Share your thoughts on being a TC student by [taking our survey](#).