

MONTEREY INSTITUTE

MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Monterey, California USA

Inside this issue:

US VISIT

Updates & New Procedures

OIS Staff Fall 2005

Graduating Students
 Congratulations
 Family invitations



WELCOME TO MONTEREY!

Welcome to all new and returning students to the Office of International Services for Students and Scholars (OIS) in the Student Affairs Building!

In September 2005 we said good-bye to Aubrey Kuan and welcomed MIIS alumna Anna Raffaele as the interim OIS manager until October 28th. She has taken over Aubrey Kuan's responsibilities, including advising on various visa-related issues. Be prepared to welcome a new manager in November. To talk to a manager use the sign-up sheet in the office to ensure that she can give you her full attention. Walk-in appointments are also welcome, but you may have to wait or come back if she's busy.

This fall, six knowledgeable and capable student assistants are also available to assist you! When you come to the office, please feel free to approach Nancy Mitchell, Katharine Bennett, Katie Hangelbroek, Amber Jones, Colleen Regalbutto, or Stefanie Moreno with any questions you may have.

Our building is also home to Dr. Peter Grothe, Director of International Student Programs. His student assistant this fall is Hussa Blake. Their activities are independent of OIS and focused on international student counseling and activities. Peter can be reached at peter.grothe@miis.edu or by phone: 647-4129 to make an appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAVE FINISHED THEIR TIME AT THE MONTEREY INSTITUTE!

Graduating international students or those completing their studies should stop by our office in order to ensure that their plans for after graduation comply with F-1 or J-1 student regulations.

If you plan on returning home, you must fill out a SEVIS completion form. Please note that you have a 60-day (F-1) or 30-day (J-1) grace period after your program ends to remain in the United States.

If you are interested in employment, transferring to another school, or extending your program at the Monterey Institute, it is very important that you visit us as soon as possible so we can go over the proper procedures.

INVITING AN OVERSEAS FAMILY MEMBER TO GRADUATION?

You may also want OIS to write a letter of invitation to assist immediate family members in applying for a visa to attend your graduation ceremony. Please e-mail us the names as they appear on their passports, relationship to you, and the address of the U.S. consulate to which they will be applying, and we will be able to process a letter for you.



For additional information, please contact:

Monterey Institute of International Studies
 Office of International Students & Scholars

Phone: 831-647-6403
 Email: visas@miis.edu

On-line Resources at
<http://www.miis.edu/admfi-ois-portal.html>

Useful Websites

Travel Tips
www.ice.gov

US VISIT updates & Press releases
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic>

SSN info
<http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
<http://www.ucas.gov/>

Remember to regularly check out our web site at
<http://www.mii.edu/admfi-ois-portal.html>

This newsletter was composed and edited by:

Stefanie Moreno, Candidate MAITP, May 2006;
 Katie Hangelbroek, Candidate MPA, May 2007;
 Nancy Mitchell, Candidate MATESOL, December 2006;
 Amber Jones, MATI Candidate, May 2007;
 Katharine Bennett Candidate MAIPS, May 2007,
 Anna Raffaele, MAITP, May 2005

US VISIT program – Ready to Exit?

By now, you are all well-acquainted with the US VISIT Entry procedures. You may soon encounter the new exit procedures. The exit process is currently being tested at 12 of the nation's international airports – including Newark and San Francisco. You can expect the same sort of procedure as on entry: scanning your visa or passport and taking an inkless finger scan.

The exit confirmation will be added to your travel records to demonstrate compliance with the terms of your admission to the US. Therefore, it is important to maintain your legal status in the US. Make sure everything is in order before you travel.

For a list of the 12 airports implementing US VISIT exit procedures, check out:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4711>.

**TRAVEL TIPS FOR F-1 STUDENTS:**

If you plan to travel out of the USA (for less than 5 months), please make sure that you have the following documents:

- SEVIS Form I-20, endorsed for travel and signed by the Manager of OIS;
- Current passport valid for at least 6 months after the date of your reentry;
- A valid, current visa;
- Financial information showing proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses;
- (Land port only) Your most recent I-94 card will facilitate your re-entry if you have exited and plan to reenter through a land port.

For more info see: www.ice.gov

ROAD TRIPS & US VISIT

The same documents required of international students who enter/exit the country through an airport are required for a road trip to Canada or Mexico. By January 1, 2006, US VISIT should be fully operational at all land border crossings to Mexico and Canada.

If you cross the border at Nogales, AZ, Alexandria Bay, NY, Pacific Highway, WA, and Peace Arch, WA, you may get to participate in another US VISIT trial. These ports are currently testing the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology. RFID technology will make it possible to pass through land ports more quickly, through the use of the RFID-enabled Form I-94A.

For more information on RFID technology go to:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4718>

OIS Services: Letters of Support

The OIS can issue you a letter of support verifying that you have maintained good F-1 status. This can be a useful cover letter for many of the visa-related applications you may file.

**Latest Web Site Posting: Social Security Numbers**

For more information on U.S. SSNs, check out the OIS website for our latest posting.