

TIGER INTERNATIONAL

A monthly newsletter brought to you by International Student Services

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2024

From the Desk of the Director. Carol Solko-Oliff

I hope everyone had a great break and you are rested and ready to start the spring semester. A **special welcome** to all new students, we are glad you are here at FHSU! The staff in International Student Services and Global Affairs is available to assist you. If you have questions or need help, please know you are always welcome to stop by. We want you all to have a successful semester and experience. The ISS staff is here to help! **Happy Year of the Dragon** for those who celebrate the lunar new year!!!

PLEASE READ THE WEEKLY EMAILS, MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, and FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM.

Staying connected is vital for our international student community, and our weekly email and monthly newsletter play a crucial role in fostering that connection. More than just updates, these communications are designed to share invaluable information tailored to your unique needs, helping you navigate unfamiliar processes and avoid potential consequences.

We understand the preference to seek advice from friends, but given the distinct nature of each international student's experience, relying solely on peer input may not provide the comprehensive guidance you need. It's essential to pay close attention to the insights shared in our emails as they contain pertinent information crucial to your success.

Have a great semester and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, e-mail or make an appointment to see me. Welcome back to a great 2024!!! Go Tigers!!!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Immigration law requires all international students to enroll and remain in a full course load which constitutes 12 credit hours for undergraduate and 9 hours for graduate students. **It is also important to note, that only one on-line class can count toward full time enrollment.** If it is your last semester and you plan to apply for OPT, you cannot be enrolled in an on-line only class. If you or your advisor have questions about this, please contact our office. If it becomes necessary to withdraw from a course, and this will put you below full-time status, visit with staff in the International Office. Checking before you drop a course will avoid problems for you and your immigration status.

Remember that while school is in session, you are only allowed to work 20 hours per week on campus. It is essential to prioritize your academic commitments and avoid any interference with your coursework due to employment obligations. To ensure compliance, we will be monitoring students' work hours throughout the spring semester.

We strongly encourage you to actively engage in campus life by participating in various activities and events, joining clubs, or joining the International Student Union. Your involvement not only enriches your overall experience but also helps you build lasting connections and create memorable moments during your time here. We look forward to seeing you thrive academically and socially at FHSU.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Visit the website and submit applications online at <http://www.fhsu.edu/finaid/Scholarships/>

The final deadline for applying for 2024-2025 scholarships is February 15.

GRADUATE SCHOOL DEADLINES

Here are some deadlines that the Graduate School would like you to know about:

- ~Comprehensive Exam deadline to sign up is **February 26**
- ~Application for Degree Completion in Workday must be filed by **March 8**
- ~Approved Thesis or Specialist's Field Study and oral exam report is due **April 29**
- ~Submission of Thesis or Specialist's Field Study introductory pages for format review is due **April 29**
- ~Comprehensive Exam results are to be turned in by **May 13**

Please contact the Graduate School at 628-4236 if you have any questions regarding deadlines or you can visit the following website for deadline information <https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/gradschl/deadlines/index> or resources for Graduate students <https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/gradschl/current-students/>

TIGER FOOD EXCHANGE



The goal of the Tiger Pantry is to provide an easy, safe, supportive and educational environment in which students, faculty and staff can readily access healthy food as well as nutrition information.

The Tiger Pantry is located on the first floor of the Memorial Union in the Chestnut Room. The space is available to drop off as well as pick up food, is a distribution point for garden produce for secure as well as food insecure patrons.

WRITING CENTER



The Writing Center is a safe, respectful environment for students, staff, faculty, and alumni. While sponsored by English Programs, we serve the entire campus community. We welcome all FHSU students to receive free, individual consultation about writing at any stage of the writing process. We believe that learning to write is a life-long process, our goal is to create better writers and habits of mind through one-on-one sessions.

Our team of undergraduate and graduate consultants are trained to provide students with a space to work actively on writing. We offer resources, strategies, and techniques across a variety of disciplines. We will converse with you at any stage of your writing process, from reviewing assignment guidelines to offering strategies for revision.

When you are ready to make an appointment, click on the "Make an Appointment" tab for instructions and a link to our appointment system. <https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/>

SEMESTER ACADEMIC CALENDAR & TIGERLINK



Information on important dates, deadlines, and breaks for the spring 2024 semester <https://www.fhsu.edu/registrar/spring-semester-2024-academic-calendar1>

Listing of campus events & activities, visit Tiger Link <https://tigerlink.fhsu.edu/>

The FHSU Student Success & Retention provides tutoring services <https://www.fhsu.edu/retention/asp/free-tutoring/>

INCOME TAX RETURN INFORMATION



The office has recently sent emails regarding your 2023 tax obligations. Make sure you regularly check and read your emails to stay informed on this subject. Marnie is hosting several workshops so it will be important for you to attend these workshops to get the vital information regarding your tax obligations and for time to work on and receive assistance in completing your income tax return.

If you are a non-resident in the US and received US income in 2023, filing a tax return is a legal requirement. The deadline for this obligation is April 18, 2024. Even if you did not earn income in the US, you are still obligated to file Form 8843 with the IRS. This applies to anyone who was present in the US at any time during the 2023 year.

ON CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT



Looking for on-campus employment opportunities? Various departments/offices are actively seeking student workers. Visit our web site at <https://www.fhsu.edu/international/international-services/employment/> for job assistance. F-1 and J-1 visa holders can work a maximum of 20 hours per week on campus during the school term in Non-Workstudy positions. Off-campus employment is only permitted through approved OPT or CPT. Graduate Assistantships & Graduate Teaching Assistantships count towards the weekly limit.

Our office monitors students' work hours with the Student Employment Office and Chartwells. If exceeding 20 hours, students will be contacted. For inquiries, reach out to the International Office at 785-628-4176. We prioritize your academic success and aim to prevent work interference with coursework. Internship participants must obtain CPT approval before starting their position.

TIGER LINK & CORQ



TigerLink is FHSU's student involvement system that helps students become engaged on campus and manage their experiences outside the classroom. TigerLink serves as the central calendar for student life and has groups for every registered student organization, residence hall, and living learning community on campus as well as a variety of university departments, programs, and resources.

Corq is the app for TigerLink to help you stay up to date with everything that is happening on campus. Logging in with your TigerNetID account will give you access to everything the app has to offer on your favorite mobile device. It allows you to find events near you based on your location, organization, and category.