



WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR - *CAROL SOLKO-OLLIFF*

I hope your semester is treating you well and looking forward to springtime in Hays.

As we approach midsemester, it's important to ensure you're on track academically. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with your academic advisor and schedule a meeting to discuss your course selections for the upcoming Fall 2024 semester or summer term. If you're considering online courses, there are specific requirements you need to be aware of. Undergraduates should be registered in 12 hours of on campus classes, while graduate students should have 9 hours. Keep in mind that only 3 hours of online coursework count towards full-time enrollment according to SEVIS regulations. If you have questions about this, please visit the International Office for assistance.

Additionally, don't forget to check your mid-term grades around March 11 in Workday. This will give you valuable insight into your academic progress. If you find yourself facing challenges, remember that FHSU has resources to support you. Feel free to reach out, and we'll connect you with the resources you need to succeed on campus.

In this newsletter you will find:



Important reminders - Scholarship opportunities - Graduate School deadlines
Interim & Tutoring - Writing Center - Semester academic calendar & Tigerlink
Invitation letters - Passport & I-20 - Sprintax & taxes



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Homeland Security officers may conduct surprise campus visits to verify students' personal information, including addresses and phone numbers listed in the SEVIS record. It's crucial to keep your information updated in Workday to ensure compliance.

As an international student, it's crucial to prioritize your studies over **on campus work** commitments. Regulations permit you to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the academic term. It's important to note that working off-campus is strictly prohibited unless you have obtained OPT or CPT authorization. Violating this rule can result in consequences, including fines for the employer and potential deportation for you, jeopardizing your student status and future in the U.S. Remember, your visa is for studying, not for work purposes. For inquiries or concerns, reach out to the International Office for assistance. Stay compliant and focused on your academic journey.

Daylight Saving Time in the United States is observed by most of the United States. This year, daylight savings time is on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00am in the morning. You will want to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Stouffer International, Solko & Olliff Family International Student, and Graduate Student Rotary International are scholarship opportunities students can apply to for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Students must be a currently enrolled on campus FHSU student with at least one full year of course work to be eligible.

Further information can be found at www.fhsu.edu/international/international-admissions/international-admissions/financial/scholarships/

Application deadline is April 8, 2024.



GRADUATE SCHOOL DEADLINES

The Graduate School has many important deadlines for graduate students to note. Visit their website for information on upcoming deadlines: www.fhsu.edu/academic/gradschl/deadlines/index

MID-TERMS & TUTORING

Mid-terms/Interim are March 4-8 and Interim grades will be posted starting March 11. You can check your grades by following these steps:

Log into Workday > click on myFHSU icon > Scroll to Academic Records section (middle left of screen) > click on view my interim grades

This is also a good time to visit with your academic advisor about the rest of the semester and plan for the fall 2024 semester.

If you are overwhelmed, stressed, or need assistance with time management academic resources, or tutoring, contact the Fischli Wills Center for Student Success on the first floor, room 142, call (785) 628-4260, or email success@fhsu. Their staff can help you manage challenges to achieve success in college. Let them help you meet your academic goals.



SEMESTER ACADEMIC CALENDAR & TIGERLINK

Information on important dates, deadlines, and breaks for the semester
www.fhsu.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/

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



THE WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center is committed to creating a safe, respectful environment for students, staff, faculty, and alumni. While sponsored by English Programs, they serve the entire campus community and welcome all FHSU students to receive free, individual consultation about writing at any stage of the writing process.

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

The Writing Center is open 9:00 am-8:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 9:00 am-2:00 pm Friday. Call 785-628-4106 or email writingcenter@fhsu.edu if you need help setting up an account or appointment.

REQUEST FOR INVITATION LETTERS

As you approach graduation, if your family plans to attend the ceremony in May, our office staff is ready to help by providing invitation letter(s) upon request. While these letters are not mandatory for visa applications, we are pleased to create them for each family member attending. Just reach out to us via email at ISSS@fhsu.edu or visit our office in the Memorial Union 014 to request the invitation letter request form. Once you have completed the form, return it to us and allow 48-72 hours for processing. You will be notified once the letter(s) are ready. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and your family!



HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR PASSPORT & I-20?

If your passport or I-20 is nearing expiration, it is essential to obtain updated documents, even if you have no immediate plans to travel outside of the United States. If your I-20 is set to expire in May and you will not be graduating, a completed Program Extension form and updated financial statement must be submitted to the office. Contact our office if you have questions or need assistance. It is crucial to maintain current I-20 and passport to ensure compliance with immigration regulations."

SPRINTAX & INCOME TAX RETURN

Remember to be preparing and attending workshops regarding completing your US income tax return. If you have not received your W2 tax form, reach out to Marnie.

If you did not work or earn income in the US, you are still required to file Form 8843 with the IRS if you were in the US during 2023.

FHSU provides FREE access to Sprintax Tax Preparation, which will assist you in preparing and filing your taxes. Be watching for the FREE access code for the Federal filing and instructions and remember, DO NOT complete Sprintax tax filing until you receive the code and ALL tax forms (W2, 1042-S, 1099s, etc.). You will need to pay for the State filing after the review section in Sprintax. Keep your tax documents safe until then.

Working sessions have been scheduled for this month to provide students with dedicated time to work on the Sprintax filing with Marnie being available to help with questions. You must attend these working sessions if you want assistance. You can attend as many of these as you need. Make sure you read emails regarding taxes.