Welcome back to Semester 1, 2013. We hope you all enjoyed the Orientation activities on campus. The International Office regularly updates all international students with relevant and important information.

YOUR STUDENT VISAA – YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

If you are in Australia on a student visa, there are specific conditions you must be aware of and follow. As a student visa holder, you must maintain:

- **Satisfactory Academic Progress**: We are required to inform the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) if an international student on student visa fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress and is subsequently excluded from his or her studies. It is important that you contact your Faculty Advisers if you are experiencing academic difficulties. You should also contact the International Student Advisers if you are concerned about the impact of your academic progress on your student visa. Both the Faculty and the International Office will be able to provide you with helpful suggestions, list support services on campus that could provide assistance, and ensure that your concerns are addressed early.

- **overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**: Student visa holders must maintain an OSHC for the whole duration of their stay in Australia. Contact your OSHC provider if you need to renew your Health Cover. Assistance is also available from Allianz Global Assistance. When logging on to the website, enter your SID followed by ‘us’ as your policy number (eg, 300000000us). They also have a representative at the Customer Service area of the International Office.

- **Updated Contact Details**: If your details change at any time, eg, address, you must log in to MyUni to update your information within 7 days. If you would like to find out the specific student visa conditions attached to your visa among your other visa details, visit DIAC’s Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) website. You will need a Transaction Reference Number (TRN), or password, along with your date of birth, passport number, and country of passport.

For more information on student visas, in relation to your study and enrolment, please visit the International Student Visa Related Information website or email us. Further information on student visas can also be found on the DIAC website.
The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has warned international students to be aware of individuals impersonating as Departmental officers seeking payment for alleged breaches of their visa conditions.

The Department has informed that some students have received “fine notices” demanding payment of thousands of dollars for unlawfully working above 40 hours a fortnight.

Click here for more information on the scam warning. All such incidents should be reported to the relevant State or Territory police and to the Immigration Dob-In Line on 1800 009 623.

You can now purchase discounted MyMulti2 and MyMulti3 public transport tickets from the University. All discounted tickets can be used for travel to and from a place of study as well as recreational travel, providing savings of up to 35 percent.

Download the MyMulti travel map (PDF) to see which ticket meets your travel needs, based on where you live in Sydney.

For details on how to purchase discounted tickets from the University, visit the Campus Card Centre website.

CONTACTING THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISERS

The International Student Advising Team is available to assist you with general advice, support regarding your academic progress in relation to your student visa, and sponsorship issues. We look forward to helping you with the challenges of studying in another country.

Our Advisers provide information to students by email, by phone, and at in-person meetings. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with one of us, please visit our website for more information.

If you want to receive information about current events and opportunities, join the International Office’s Gamarada email list. Click here to join the group.

SCAM WARNING FOR STUDENT VISA HOLDERS IN AUSTRALIA

TRADE DISCOUNTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
OSHC IS NOW EASIER WITH NEW IPHONE APP

Students who purchased their Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) through Allianz Global Assistance can now manage their OSHC with the new iPhone app, making OSHC simpler than ever.

- Find the nearest direct billing doctor using GPS.
- Order a membership card.
- Update OSHC account details.
- Find all our contact details.
- Find out what and how to claim.

Click here for more information or contact the OSHC Helpdesk located on Level 4 in the Jane Foss Russell Building for assistance.

WORKING WHILE YOU STUDY

Starting from 26 March 2012, student visa holders with subclass 573 are allowed to work for up to 40 hours per fortnight while the course is in session. A fortnight means a period of 14 days, commencing on any Monday and ending on the second following Sunday.

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) student visa holders with subclass 574 can work unlimited hours once their course has commenced.

If you are looking for a part-time job, the Careers Centre may be able to assist you. Visit sydney.edu.au/careers for more information on the services they can provide.

NSW POLICE NOW ON FACEBOOK AND WEIBO FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As an initiative to promote safety awareness to international students, the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF) are launching their Facebook and Weibo page that will continually provide safety tips and information about the NSWPF.

The Weibo page was established in the Mandarin language to help police communicate to the large Chinese community in NSW, be they locals, students or tourists.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

Sunday, 31 March 2013
HECS Census Date for Semester 1

Friday, 29 March –
Friday, 5 April 2013
Universities Australia common vacation week/nonteaching Easter period
FUN, FARE & FUTURE ALUMNI – CALLING ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Fun, Fare & Future Alumni is a program connecting international students with our alumni.

Join and you can attend a leisurely breakfast, a barbeque lunch, or even a formal dinner hosted by University of Sydney alumni.

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other students, our alumni and their families, make new friends and share academic, professional, and social experiences.

Gatherings commence from Semester 1, 2013. For further information, please visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/hospitality.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Get career centred with the Careers Centre’s new employability program especially for international students. Our series of Workshops will help you develop the skills you need to create a strong resume, uncover the hidden job market, answer interview questions with confidence, and more. In addition to the Workshops, you can register your interest to receive information about volunteering, employer site visits, on-campus events, and internship vacancies. See the Careers Centre website for more information and registration.

SRC LEGAL SERVICE: TENANCY CHECKLIST

It is the time of the year for most of you to move into a new place or find new tenants to share accommodation. But do you know your legal rights and responsibilities in case things go wrong during the lease term?

The Student Representative Council (SRC) Legal Service has prepared a tenancy checklist for issues to look out for in a new tenancy relationship, so make sure you take action now to avoid some of the common tenancy problems. They also have a lease template available on their website for your use (you need to have a written lease agreement such as this when you rent a place).

Click here to see the lease template.

If you have more specific questions, please contact the SRC Legal Service team on 9660 5222.

Further information on renting a home can be found on the NSW Fair Trading website.

UNIMATES: FOR FUN, FOR FRIENDSHIP, FOREVER

Come and join one of the most vibrant societies on campus! This is your chance to meet regularly with other international students as well as local students. Unimates hold a weekly free Coffee and Cake meeting for members every Wednesday from 12.30–2.00pm at the Biochemistry Lawn and various weekend events, seeing the sights of Sydney.

For more information, contact Unimates at usyd.unimates@gmail.com, join their Facebook page, or check out their website. Also sign up to Unimate’s mailing list to keep up-to-date with their events.
SHOW US THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HOMELAND

The International Festival is a returning University of Sydney Union (USU) initiative to promote campus cultural diversity and awareness. Boasting a showcase of activities that interact with various languages, customs and nationalities, the International Festival is an elaborate array of interactive student diversity.

This year, the Festival invites you to submit photographs of your home cities and/or overseas destinations that have inspired your interest. These photographs will be printed and displayed on Eastern Avenue in a visual exhibition of our global community between 30 April – 2 May. We hope that this exhibition will raise awareness of the University’s international student body in a colorful cultural display that stretches the length of Eastern Avenue.

Please submit your photographs by Wednesday, 10 April 2013 to usuinternationalintern@gmail.com.

MICHAEL KIRBY SPEAKING COMPETITION
WIN $1,000 AND THE KIRBY CUP FOR A 5 MINUTE SPEECH!

Kirby Cup registrations are now open and we want to hear from international students. Organised by the USU, this competition offers students a chance to test and practice their public speaking skills in an environment that is both constructive and competitive. There are big prizes for the winner and finalists. This year, the USU will again be holding an English as a Second Language (ESL) Division. The talented ESL student who wins the ESL category will receive $1,000 in prize money and the Kirby Cup for their division.

For more information, or to register, visit ususonline.com. Students can also complete the form in person at the International Student Lounge (Level 4, Wentworth Building).

Registrations close Friday, 19 April 2013.

We hope you find this edition of the International Student Newsletter useful. If you have any questions, or need any assistance, please contact us or visit the International Office website.

Yours sincerely,

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