Congratulations on having completed the exams!

In this issue of the International Student Newsletter, you will find useful information related to your student visa, graduations, and more. Meanwhile, we wish you a safe semester break, and we will see you back in Semester 2, 2013.

YOUR STUDENT VISA
YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

If you hold an Australian student visa, you must be aware of, and comply with, certain conditions. For example, you must:

- **Make satisfactory academic progress**: The University is required to inform the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) if a student visa holder is excluded from his or her course due to a failure to make satisfactory academic progress. If you are experiencing academic difficulties, it is important that you contact the International Student Advisers and your Faculty/School advisers as soon as possible. If you are concerned about the impact of your academic progress on your student visa, you should contact the International Student Advisers. The International Student Advisers and your Faculty/School advisers can provide you with information about the support services available to you on campus. They can also make helpful suggestions about how to get your studies back on track.

- **Maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**: Student visa holders must maintain OSHC for the entire duration of their stay in Australia. If you need to renew your policy, you should contact your OSHC provider directly. If your policy was initially arranged for you by the University, you can visit the Allianz Global Assistance Overseas Student Health Cover website for assistance. Your policy number is your student identification number plus the letters US (for example, 300000000US). You can speak with a representative of this provider at the International Office.

- **Update your contact details**: If your contact details (including your address) change at any time, you must update them within 7 days of the change by logging into MyUni.

You can find information about your personal student visa conditions, as well as other information about your visa, by visiting DIAC’s Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) website. To access the website, you will need your Transaction Reference Number (TRN) or password. You will also need to enter your date of birth, passport number, and passport country. If you are a student visa holder, you can find more information about your enrolment and study at the International Student Visa Related Information page of the University’s website. Further information about student visas can also be found on the DIAC website.
WORKING WHILE YOU STUDY

From 26 March 2012, a student visa holder whose visa subclass is 573 is allowed to work for up to 40 hours per fortnight while his or her course is in session. A fortnight means a period of fourteen (14) days, commencing on any Monday and ending on the second following Sunday.

A Higher Degree by Research (HDR) student visa holder whose visa subclass is 574 can work unlimited hours once his or her course has commenced.

If you are looking for a part-time job, the Careers Centre may be able to assist you. Visit the Careers Centre website for more information on their services.

CONTACTING THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISERS

The International Student Advisers can provide you with general advice, visa-related information and other support. If you are a sponsored student, they can also assist you with any sponsorship-related issues. The Advisers look forward to helping you with the challenges of studying in another country.

The Advisers can provide you with information by email, by phone, or at a face-to-face meeting. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with an Adviser, please visit our website for more information.

If you would like to receive information about current events and opportunities, join the International Office's Gamarada email list. Click here to add your name to the list.

OVERSEAS GRADUATION CEREMONY IN PR CHINA

The University will hold a Graduation Ceremony in Beijing, PR China in 2013. The Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, 22 October 2013, at 6:30pm. If you are interested in attending, you can register your interest here. If you have any queries, or require additional information, please contact the Graduations Office.

STAYING FOR YOUR GRADUATION

If you wish to remain in Australia after your student visa expires in order to attend your Graduation Ceremony, you should ask DIAC whether you are eligible for another visa type. A student who has completed his/her course is no longer enrolled. This means that he/she cannot obtain a new eCoE for student visa extension purposes. You can find more information about extending your stay on the DIAC website.

For information about Graduation Ceremonies, please visit the Graduations Office website.
**MESSAGE FROM THE SRC LEGAL SERVICES: DON’T GET CAUGHT DRINK DRIVING**

You will get more than a fine and a licence suspension if you get caught drink driving, and a criminal record may affect your future visa application.

“The most shocking discovery of the clients who come to me with a court attendance notice for a PCA offence (Prescribed Concentration of Alcohol) is that when they are convicted of a PCA offence they will have a criminal record. This record has to be declared to your professional body when you register to practise your profession. Most relevantly, this has to be declared when you apply for another visa in the future.” wrote Maggie Hayes, Solicitor at the Student Representative Council (SRC) Legal Service.

“Some clients come with the belief that they might be dealt with leniently by the magistrate so that they don’t have the conviction recorded against them. This is most unlikely as magistrates have been told by appeal judges that they are not to deal with PCA offences in this way unless the accused has a long and faultless driving record. So the message is walk home, get a taxi, or sleep over at a friend’s place. Don’t take your car in the first place with plans of leaving it at the pub and picking it up the next day. When you have been drinking you are prone to taking more risks and that particular risk could be very costly to your career as well as to your pocket.”

If you are caught with a traffic offence, you should get legal advice immediately. SRC Legal Service can advise and assist students in court for no fee. You can make an appointment with the SRC solicitors by calling 9660 5222.

**MESSAGE FROM THE SRC: TAKE YOUR MONEY HOME WITH YOU**

If you have worked in Australia and are now returning home, you may have superannuation money that you can claim and take with you. You can submit a claim as soon as you have left Australia.

Before you leave, get all of your original documentation copied and certified. You will also need information about your superannuation fund, including the provider’s name, your membership number, and your employer’s details.

If you have more than $5,000 in your superannuation fund, you will also need to certify your immigration status with DIAC. This will cost around $55. **See the DIAC website for more information.**

The Australian financial year finishes on 30 June. If you have worked in Australia, you may also need to complete a **tax return form online.** For more information, visit the Australian **Tax Office website.**

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES**

**Monday, 1 July 2013**
Unit of Study Results (marks and grades) will be released progressively

**Monday, 1 July – Saturday, 27 July 2013**
Winter School starts

**Monday, 8 July – Friday, 12 July 2013**
Universities Australia common vacation week

**Monday, 29 July 2013**
Semester 2 begins
Would you like to have fun and meet new friends through sport and exercise? Welcome to Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness – where there is something for every international student.

Are you looking to join a gym to keep fit? Look no further than SUSF: two gym facilities – The Sports & Aquatic Centre & The Arena with cardio and weights rooms, a 50m indoor swimming pool, over 65 group fitness classes per week, a rock-climbing centre, as well as basketball, badminton, squash and tennis courts, and much more. Visit a SUSF gym today.

SUSF Winter Short Courses are open to everyone!

Stay fit, active and make new friends: try Scuba Diving, Pilates, Indoor Rock Climbing, Self Defense Fitness 101, Introduction to Fencing, Tennis for Beginners, or Stand Up Paddle Boarding. Click here to register today. International students receive a student discount.

Re-Orientation Day is a great opportunity for international students to meet new people and get involved by joining any of the University of Sydney Union’s (USU) 200+ clubs and societies. To sign up with the USU and start joining USU clubs and societies, simply visit the USU Access Tent on Eastern Avenue between 10:00am and 4:00pm and get yourself an Access Card for only $49/semester. For a full list of clubs and societies, visit the USU website.

The Student Representative Council of KDU College Penang campus is organising the International Student Conference 2013 on 10–12 October 2013 at the Traders Hotel, Penang, Malaysia. It is a platform for students to express their views and thoughts for the future. It is a gateway for students to explore and exchange new ideas and perspectives with students from other academic institutions.

You are invited by KDU College’s Student Representative Council to take part in this Conference to create change for the youth community. For more information about the Conference, please refer to the ISC-Brochures. To register for the Conference, please complete the ISC-Registration Form.
CET CONGRATULATES KIRBY CUP WINNER

The Centre for English Teaching (CET) congratulates Leticia Luiz, 2013 winner of the Kirby Cup Speaking Competition in the ESL Division. Leticia took away $1,000 for her speech ‘Right Here, Right Now’. Leticia is studying a Bachelor of Engineering and is a recipient of the Brazilian Government’s Science Without Borders (SWB) scholarship.

Leticia attended the Centre for English Teaching at the University of Sydney where she developed her English language skills.

You can see an excerpt from Leticia’s speech and more photos online.

NAIDOC ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CELEBRATIONS 2013

The NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) celebration will be held by the City of Sydney at Hyde Park on Monday, 8 July 2013 between 11:00am and 3:00pm.

Come along and learn more about the oldest living culture through food, song, dance, and art. Enjoy well-known singers, participate in modern and traditional dance, try your hand at weaving, learn about traditional culture, and enjoy a day in the park with your family and friends celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

For a full list of events being held as part of NAIDOC Week, Click here.

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.

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