Welcome to Semester 2, 2013. We hope you have enjoyed the array of Orientation activities on campus and the great weather in Sydney. For those who have just commenced your studies at the University of Sydney this semester, we hope that you found our International Student Arrival Information Session helpful. If you have missed out on a Session and would like to obtain an Information Pack about the University’s student support services and other useful information, please visit the International Office Front Desk on Level 4 of the Jane Foss Russell Building. Meanwhile, you will find information that is important and relevant for international students in this edition.

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 and are concerned about the impact of your academic progress on your student visa, it is important that you contact the International Student Advisers and your Faculty/School Advisers as soon as possible. The International Student Advisers or 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 and to navigate the visa processes.

- **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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SRC: ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR ACCOMMODATION?

Think about how your living environment impacts on your happiness, sleep, relaxation, and your ability to study. If your home is good for sleep or fun but not for study, make an effort to schedule study time somewhere like the campus library. If you live a long way from the campus, you might be more comfortable in your local library or café, or at a friend’s house. If your home environment makes you unhappy and that affects your study, you may want to move out. Talk to a SRC Caseworker about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant in this situation.

Get receipts for your rent and bond payments – You should be given a receipt each time you pay rent, unless it is an electronic transfer. If your landlord is asking you for cash, and is not willing to provide a receipt, you should talk to a SRC Caseworker. Similarly, if you have paid a bond or deposit, you are entitled to have a receipt. This is proof that you have made the payment, so you can claim it back when it is time to move out.

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.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

Friday, 30 August 2013
Withdrawal census date

Saturday, 31 August 2013
Open Day

Friday, 13 September 2013
Last day to Discontinue Not Fail (DNF)
GET CAREER CENTRED

Looking for work this semester? The Careers Centre can help. Log in to Sydney Career Hub to browse current job vacancies, visit their Resource Centre or refine your employability skills by attending one of the specialised workshops. Some of their sessions include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>WORKSHOP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 August 2013</td>
<td>1:00–2:00pm</td>
<td>International Students: Australian Resume Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 August 2013</td>
<td>1:00–2:00pm</td>
<td>International Students: Cover Letters and Selection Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 August 2013</td>
<td>1:00–2:00pm</td>
<td>International Students: Interview Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 September 2013</td>
<td>1:00–2:00pm</td>
<td>International Students: Professional Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 September 2013</td>
<td>1:00–2:00pm</td>
<td>International Students: Get Noticed!</td>
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</tbody>
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International students are also welcome at the general skills workshops and other on-campus events. To register, visit the Sydney Career Hub website.

LEARNING TIPS FROM CET – CRITICAL THINKING

University life is filled with demands and on top of the list is Critical Thinking. What is it? How do you get it? As you read or listen to texts in class, think carefully and critically about how the issues are dealt with in the text. Ask questions about the claims, the arguments, the evidence or reasons, and any assumptions that the author is making. Think also about your own reactions to the issues, and how you can support your own claims.

Find out more about this topic on the Centre For English Teaching’s (CET) Facebook page.

STUDENT SUPPORT NETWORK WORKSHOP

Seeking support from friends is normal for international students who are away from home and their usual support people. Why not learn some skills to become a good support person?

Have you always been interested in psychology? Do you like helping people? Are you sometimes the “go-to person” for your friends?

This free Workshop Series, starting in Week 4 of the semester, from Monday, 19 August 2013, run by the Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS), aims to help you develop the skills to help out your friends when they are struggling. It is also designed to alleviate your own stress when helping out friends. It will be an excellent addition to your resume. So come join the “Sidekicks” team and make a difference!

Please email CAPS to register, or to obtain more information.
MESSAGE FROM THE SCR LEGAL SERVICES

“IT’S SO MUCH BETTER TO BE SMART!”

YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A CAR ACCIDENT AND BEEN UNINSURED
We can negotiate with insurance companies for you.

DID YOU GET ARRESTED AT A CONCERT FOR POSSESSION OF DRUGS?
We can go to court with you and speak on your behalf.

HAS YOUR EMPLOYER TOLD YOU THAT THEY DON’T HAVE TO PAY YOU WHILE YOU ARE IN TRAINING?
We can tell you what employment law really says.

HAVE YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE WITH YOUR CREDIT CARDS?
We can negotiate with your bank to make paying it off manageable.

IF WE CAN’T HELP YOU HERE WE CAN REFER YOU TO A SOLICITOR OR BARRISTER WHO WON’T RIP YOU OFF

WE CAN HELP YOU WITH LOTS OF OTHER LEGAL PROBLEMS TOO

TO CONTACT US...
Phone us on 9660 5222 or email us at solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

UNIMATES: FOR FUN, FOR FRIENDSHIP, FOREVER

Want to have fun, meet new friends from all over the globe and experience everything that Sydney has to offer?

Come join the Unimates society, as they take you on all their events throughout the semester. Unimates is organising a new event throughout Sydney each weekend. Ever wanted to see the beautiful Hunter Valley and taste authentically-made Australian wine? Ever wanted to try your hand at surfing at one of Sydney’s famous picturesque beaches? Come join them and meet new faces and friends from all around the world.

For more information on their weekly events and to keep updated, you will find them on Facebook, or email Unimates with your enquiry. Hope to see you there!
The International Student Lounge plays host to a variety of exciting events this August.

Their regular Pool Competition is held each Thursday at 4:00pm with a first prize of $50 to be won each week. Non-native English speakers can attend a casual English conversation workshop each Tuesday at 3:00pm to practice oral English. In addition, Club and Societies host special events every week, including the:

– Indian Society and SU Disney Society Movie Nights on Monday, 12 August, and Monday, 26 August 2013
– Australia China Youth Association’s (ACYA) Welcome Night on Tuesday, 13 August 2013
– Chopsticks’ Games Night on Wednesday, 14 August 2013

The International Student Lounge is buzzing with activity, so pop in sometime this month or find them on Facebook for the latest updates.

The International Student Lounge is located on Level 4, Wentworth Building, on the Darlington Campus.

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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