



International Student Admissions & Programs
westga.edu/isap

December 2021 ISAP Newsletter

Published monthly by International Student Admissions and Programs (ISAP) to provide reminders about F1 / J1 regulations, services, programs, and opportunities for involvement.

ISAP wishes you **GOOD LUCK** on finals, followed by a **healthy, safe & joyous** holiday break. We are glad you are here! To our graduating Seniors, **Congratulations** too.

You'll always have a home away from home @UWG.

#foreverwest



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OMICRON VARIANT - TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO THE U.S.

Effective November 29, 2021, citizens of the following countries are not permitted to enter the U.S. in the 14-day period before travel to the U.S. due to the emergence of the new “Omicron” Variant. This list is subject to change or expand: *Botswana, Eswatini (former Swaziland), Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, or Zimbabwe*. For details about this Presidential proclamation, please see [this link to the White House](#).

TRAVEL SIGNATURES, VISA RENEWALS, & AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Planning to travel outside the U.S. over the break and return afterwards? Only continuing students and those with approved or pending OPT may return. Take the following documents with you:

- Valid I-20 (F-1 Students) or DS-2019 (J-1 Students) with **updated travel signature***
- Valid electronic I-94 printout and Valid Passport
- OPT Offer Letter + OPT Card in hand, if applicable
- If your F1 or J1 visa has expired, you must obtain a renewal before U.S. re-entry.

** Updated Travel Signature: Only a Designated School Official (DSO) or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) at UWG can sign your I-20 or DS-2019. You need one if the last signature is more than 6 months old. Please visit ISAP in person during normal business hours to obtain one. Electronic signatures are not available since campus is fully open.*

***No updated travel signature is required if you are not re- entering the U.S.*

✈ ISAP is unable to provide a shuttle for Fall departures or Spring arrivals, unfortunately.

END OF YEAR FAREWELL DINNER

At the end of the Fall semester, ISAP traditionally hosts a dinner for exchange and graduating students leaving UWG. The dinner is open to everyone including all ISC members. The dinner is self-paid, and students carpool to the location. Please, click on the farewell dinner poll so we can select the location and make the reservation. [ISAP Farewell Dinner Poll](#)

FREE ON-CAMPUS HOUSING DURING WINTER BREAK

If you are a current UWG student with an on-campus housing contract, you may stay on campus in your current room or suite during the entire winter break. **No extra contract or cost required.** Be on the look-out for an email from Housing though to indicate your plans.

ISAP IS HIRING A STUDENT ASSISTANT, SPRING 2022

**Note: the job will be posted and viewable by Thursday, Dec. 2.*

To apply: 1. Select "View All Jobs" 2. Select "Student Assistant" 3. Select International Office >> [at this employment link](#)

- **Position Summary:** ISAP front office Student Assistants (SA's) deliver service excellence to all students, guests, faculty and staff who visit or contact ISAP by phone or email. ISAP SA's also perform clerical duties such as filing, making copies, delivering mail, developing event fliers, posting on social media (IG) and other tasks as assigned. The ISAP SA also assists individuals to navigate the ISAP website, find forms, and refer people to full-time staff for various inquiries. The SA will also maintain a clean and orderly office and arrive on time for all scheduled shifts.
- **Schedule & Pay:** Flexible schedule up to 20hrs per week at \$9 per hour.

SPRING 2022 COURSE ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

Course Registration is open. Please see this "[Registration Information](#)" page on the UWG Registrar website. If you are unsure what to select, please see your academic advisor first.

FALL 2021 FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

[The schedule is here.](#) *"If a student has more than two final exams in a single day, the student may reschedule all but two of them with approval of faculty members, department chairs, college deans, and if necessary, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs."*

FALL 2021 ENROLLMENT AUDIT & REQUIREMENTS

- ISAP conducts **enrollment audits** in December to ensure F1 / J1 enrollment compliance.
- Please review international student [enrollment requirements](#)
- Don't hesitate to contact ISAP if you have questions.

GRADUATION & GRACE PERIODS

- If Fall 2021 is your graduation semester, remember you have a 60 day grace period after your program completion date to stay in the U.S. or to apply for OPT. View your options at the [“Support & Services” tab, then “Graduation & Transcripts” tab.](#)

SCAMS – BEWARE!

- The IRS and Social Security Administration will not contact you by phone. If you receive such a call, it’s a SCAM. Just hang-up, no matter what they say. Don’t answer any questions. Contact ISAP if you are not sure.
- During the holiday gift giving season in the U.S. most emails or texts that ask you to verify information for a service, payment or warning you were not expecting, are most likely SCAMs. Don’t click. Just delete. Contact ISAP if you are not sure.

HEALTH INSURANCE SPRING 2021

Each Fall and Spring semester, international students are automatically enrolled in United Health Care (UHC) insurance offered by the University System of Georgia (USG). Your costs (premiums) for Spring 2022 are added to your UWG account when you register for courses.

Q: What if I don’t see insurance charge on my account?

A: Please email Paul Sargent psargent@westga.edu as soon as possible to verify your location, enrollment and proper coding or eligibility for a waiver based on non-US location.

Q: How do I request a waiver or see the insurance requirement details?

A: Please see: <https://www.westga.edu/academics/isap/healthinsurance.php> but also note that ISAP is not involved in the waiver process and has no way to appeal the UHC decision.

Q: What if I don’t have approved coverage by the fee payment deadline?

A: Your courses will automatically be dropped as required by the USG. ISAP is not involved.

Q: What if I am fully enrolled OUTSIDE the U.S for Spring 2022?

A: Fill out [the Out-of-Country Waiver form](#) to certify your non U.S. location.

Q: Can ISAP help me find insurance that meets the USG / UHC waiver requirements?

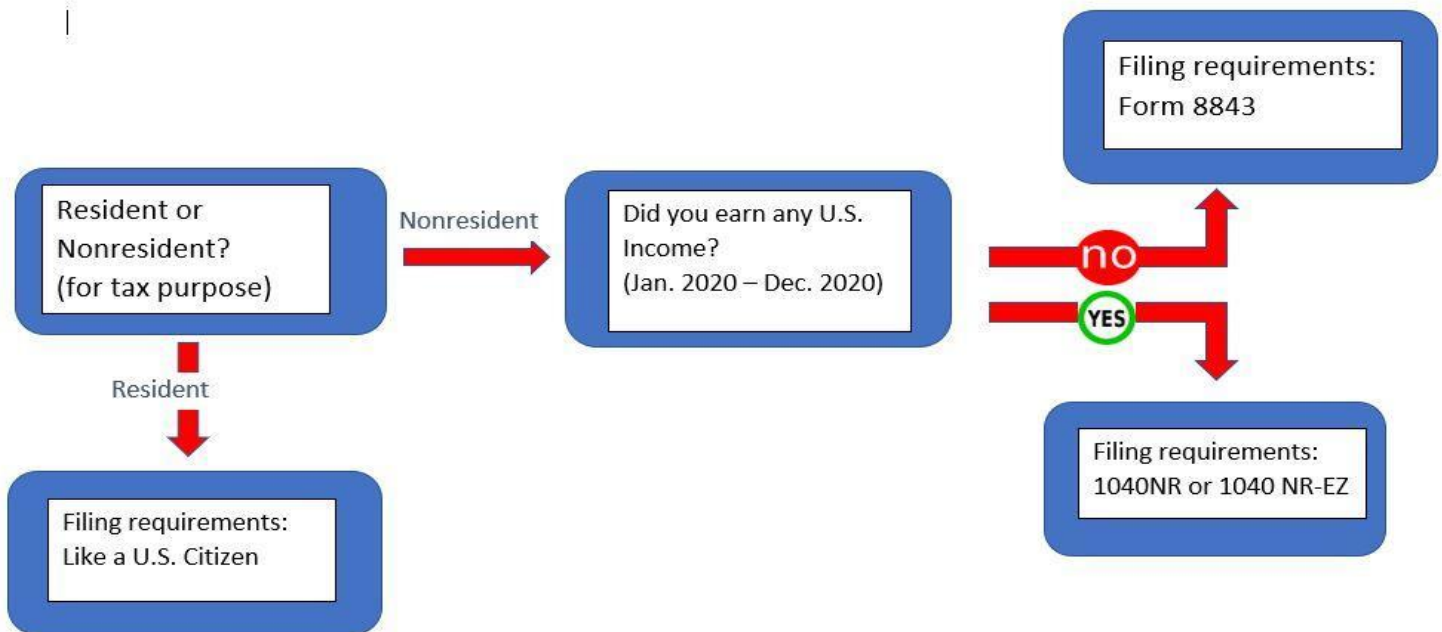
A: Unfortunately, no. ISAP is not aware of any plans that meet the waiver requirements.

Q: My waiver was denied. How can I appeal?

A: Please email: ship@usg.edu with your full name, institution name and a brief summary. ISAP is not involved in the process.

US INCOME TAXES

US Tax season comes each Spring, but you can start gathering your info now. Every international student who was *physically present* in the U.S. – even just 1 day during 2021 - has at least 1 tax form to submit. The general tax filing deadline in the U.S. is **April 15, 2022**. In Spring, we'll help you with the paperwork. Nothing to do now. This is preliminary information. **Do I need to file a tax form or a complete tax return in 2022?**



CONNECT WITH ISAP



- **ISAP on IG | Click the Logo**
- **International Student Admissions & Programs (ISAP)**
Mandeville Hall | Front Campus Drive
www.westga.edu/isap | T: 678-839-4780
- **Live Chat** | via the website above 9-5, M-F
- **Email** | global@westga.edu | Please include your 917# and full name
- **Walk-in Advising**
M-F (except Tuesday mornings)
9 – 11:30am, and 1:30 – 4:30pm
- **Winter Break Closure:** The office will be closed Monday, December 20th until Tuesday, January 4th with limited service available by email, phone, and chat December 20th - 23rd and Friday, December 31st.