Have a Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the holiday celebrating the end of the harvest season. **The Big Move!** The International Student Center is relocating to C-102 effective December 12th. Please note that the ISC will not be accepting appointments on Friday, December 9th and Monday, December 12th due to the move. Stop by and see your new home!

Congratulations to Ralph Etienne, the winner of our rename the e-globe contest.

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### Immigration & Academic Counseling Walk-in Hours

- **Monday – Thursday**: 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- **Monday and Thursday**: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- **Tuesday and Wednesday**: 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm
- **Friday**: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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**Immigration Notes**

**Traveling outside the United States during the break?** – Any student that is traveling this winter break needs to obtain a travel signature. Travel signatures are valid for one year. The ISC recommends that you always have a valid travel signature. Please feel free to stop by the ISC and bring your I-20 (if you have dependents, please bring in their I-20s as well) for your travel signature. Also, make sure that you have a valid passport and visa. If you should have any questions, please stop by and see an ISC counselor!

**December Graduates** – Congrats to you if you’ll become a BCC grad this semester! If you’re planning to engage in optional practical training (OPT), applying for approval for work authorization after graduation, you must attend an OPT workshop.

Next OPT workshop (Working After Graduation): Tues., December 6th at 12:30 in C-324

If you are not planning to partake in OPT and just want to transfer out to a 4 year school then, please pick up a Transfer Request Form from the ISC and submit this completed form along with a copy of your acceptance letter. Remember, your SEVIS record can only be released to one school.

**I-20 Extensions** - If your I-20 is about to expire (see end date on the I-20) and you will not be graduating at the end of this semester, then you will need to apply for an extension. Extensions are only given in year increments. Stop by the ISC and pick up an I-20 extension packet. Once you have everything in order, you may drop off your packet to the ISC. You will be notified by e-mail if your I-20 is ready for pick-up or if your packet is incomplete.

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 WORKSHOPS

**December**

- **Thursday, December 1st @ 12:30 pm (C-313)**
  - Intercultural Communication
- **Tuesday, December 6th @ 12:30 pm (C-324)**
  - Working After Graduation
- **Wednesday, December 7th @ 12:30 pm (C-311)**
  - Scholarships and Other Funding Options

If you would like to additional information on a workshop, call 201-689-7601, Email isc@bergen.edu or stop by the International Student Center. All workshops will be approximately 1 hour.

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HACKENSACK I PARAMUS I MEADOWLANDS
International Student Center, Room A-126
400 Paramus Road I Paramus, NJ 07652
Telephone: 201-689-7601 I Fax: 201-251-0353
Get the latest news on what’s happening at Bergen Community College. “Like” BCC on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/bergencommunitycollege

Academic Reminders

_E Grade Policy_ - An E grade is a grade given to a student for non-attendance. Any student who receives an E grade will have their SEVIS record terminated. E grades will result in the loss of your F-1 status. Professors are required to report attendance and the ISC monitors the attendance of F-1 students. Be aware that every professor has their own attendance policy. Please make sure to review your syllabi for your classes. We strongly encourage you to reach out to your professors, seek help the tutoring centers on campus and always see your International Student Advisor in the ISC!

The ISC is always the first place you should stop. The ISC may be able to assist you in the event that you have a medical reason for not going to class. Come see our office immediately! Never let a professor tell you not to attend a class for any reason. According to immigration, you MUST register and attend classes (a minimum of 12 credits) or you could lose your F-1 status.

_Spring 2012 Registration_ – A friendly reminder that all students are required to register for a minimum of 12 credits. Also, students are eligible to take either one online (WB) course or two hybrid (HY) courses each semester.

_Math Placement_ – All college level students are required to take the math placement exam (S-127, Testing). Any student completing the ALP level III program this Fall 2011 will be able to take this exam in January.

Important News to Note:

1. The Glen Rock Social Security Office has closed. Please note that the closest Social Security Office is now located in Hackensack. Continental Plaza, 2nd Floor 401 Hackensack Avenue Hackensack, NJ 07601

2. New international students need to submit your health forms as soon as possible to the Health Office in Room HS-100. If you do not submit this form you will be unable to register for the Spring semester.

If you would like to make an appointment with an International Advisor or get additional information on the programs listed in this newsletter, please call the International Student Center at 201-689-7601 or visit us in Room A-126 (C-102 after December 12th).

What is there to do outside of classes? Visit the International Student Life Blog for more information: http://bergeninternational.blogspot.com. Get involved! Join a club or attend an event.

**International Student Association (ISA)**

Meetings this semester are held on Wednesdays in Room L-147 from 12:30-1:30 pm. If you would like to join ISA, e-mail them at Bergen.isa@gmail.com or attend one of the meetings on Wednesday throughout the semester.

Get the latest news on what’s happening at Bergen Community College. “Like” BCC on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/bergencommunitycollege

Check out information for BCC F-1 International Students online, at the following web addresses:

**General F-1 Information:** http://www.bergen.edu/internationalcounseling

- F-1 Working Information (including OPT): http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2954.asp
- F-1 Traveling Information: http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2955.asp
- Extensions on I-20's: http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2956.asp
- For Immigration Forms, and to check on an OPT application: http://www.bergen.edu/forms
- USCIS: (United States Customs and Immigration Services) www.uscis.gov
- ICE (Immigration Customs and Enforcement): http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm

Address and Email Changes:

Moving or have a new Email address? USCIS/DHS (United States Customs & Immigration Service/Department of Homeland Security) requires all F-1 students to notify BCC of any home address changes within 10 DAYS of the move. In fact, if you have ANY contact information changes, like change of email, or phone number, let us know! To notify BCC, simply go to the International Student Center in A-126, fill out the F-1 Change of Data Form, and we will change the information. This form is also available online at www.bergen.edu/isc/forms.