Welcome Back International Students! A very special welcome to the new F-1 students. We hope you have a wonderful experience here. The International Student Center is located in the Pitkin Education Center, Room A-126 and is here to provide you with support for your immigration and academic questions, as well as enrich your college experience with academic and social programs. Stop by to see us with any questions or to say hello. We are here for you.

There are many exciting programs and events coming up this semester. Perhaps you’re new to BCC and would like to know more about working on and/or off campus, check out more information listed below! We have workshops for you if you would like to transfer to a four-year school or apply for OPT. Will you be graduating from ALP level III at the end of this semester and wondering “what to do next”, what major to choose, and what classes to register for? Or, maybe you’re a continuing student, and would like to know more about how to achieve academic success. We’ve got you covered too! Check out the many exciting and helpful workshops we’re offering this semester.

**WORKSHOPS**

**September**

- Thurs, September 22nd @ 12:30 pm (C-324) **Working On/Off Campus as an F-1**
- Mon, September 26th @ 12:30 pm (C-311) **Using WebAdvisor + Bergen E-mail**
- Thurs, September 29th @ 12:00 pm (B-304) **Intercultural Communication**

**October**

- Mon, October 3rd @ 12:30 pm (C-325) **Leadership Opportunities @ BCC**
- Wed, October 12th @ 12:30 pm (C-324) **Working After Graduation**
- Thurs, October 13th @ 12:30 pm (C-311) **How to Get + Maintain Good Grades**
- Tues, October 18th @ 12:30 pm (C-311) **Scholarships + Other Funding Options**
- Mon, October 24th @ 12:30 pm (C-324) **Working After Graduation**
- Wed, October 26th @ 2:00 pm (C-325) **Preparing Class Presentations**

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.

**Director’s Note**

Welcome new students - and welcome back to all of our returning students! Whether this is your first or final semester at Bergen, I am so pleased that you have decided to study at Bergen Community College.

I hope that you will consider the International Student Center your "home away from home". The staff in the ISC is here to help you with everything from academic advisement and immigration counseling to adjusting to life in the USA. The ISC staff can also help better connect you to the College by referring you to different offices on campus like the Transfer and Career Center, the Tutoring Center, Personal Counseling and Student Life. All you have to do is stop by the ISC or attend one of the great workshops we have coming up.

Bergen is a great place to be- there is so much to experience here and I hope that you will take advantage of it all. If you have a suggestion for the office or an idea you’d like to share, please feel free to let me know. The ISC is here to help you succeed and we are eager to hear your thoughts. Remember, this is your time, make the most of it! Enjoy the semester. Spring is just around the corner!

Best,

Kate Plessing
**Immigration News**

**Employment**

Working off campus without having the proper working authorization will result in the loss of your F-1 status. F-1 students must always obtain working permission from an International Student Counselor to either work: on-campus, off-campus when doing an internship (permission is granted on I-20 through Curricular Practical Training referred to as CPT) or working off-campus on Optional Practical Training (pre-/post-completion OPT) or through Economic Hardship. If you have a social security card, this does not grant you permission to work. This card is only legal to use if you have permission from an International Student Counselor or from USCIS. Additionally, it is illegal to use another person’s social security card. Though you may think that you will not get caught, if an immigration officer were to ask you for your legal working papers and you could not provide them, this is grounds for immediate termination of your F-1 status. Additionally, this could seriously hurt any chances you may have at changing or adjusting your status in the future, if you opt to do this. To sum this up, working off campus without having the proper approval – DON’T DO IT!

There will be plenty of workshops this semester that will cover both working on and off campus. Students who will be graduating in December and are planning to apply for post-completion OPT, are required to attend the OPT workshop (Working After Graduation).

**Need to see an advisor?**

Walk-in hours are available every day of the week for immigration and academic counseling:

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

**Get Involved! Join a club or attend an event.**

There are many opportunities to get involved at BCC; there is a life outside of your classes.

**International Student Association (ISA)**

Meetings this semester will be on Tuesdays in Room L-146 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 Tuesdays throughout the semester.

**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.

**Get the latest news on what’s happening at Bergen Community College. “Like” BCC on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/bergencommunitycollege**
Howdy Y’all! My name is Laura Paprotta and I come from the Lone Star State. I’m the new International Student Counselor and I’ll be assisting you with both your academic and immigration needs. Germany is my second home but Texas will always hold that number one spot. I was previously the Coordinator of the Office of International Student Services at Houston Baptist University. I have over six years of experience in the field of international higher education.

I love my job but I do love my life outside of work too! I enjoy traveling. My favorite destination spots outside the U.S. would have to be Germany and Austria. I’m also an avid San Antonio Spurs fanatic.

I do look forward to meeting all of you and assisting you while you complete your studies here at BCC!

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.


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

**General F-1 Information:** [http://www.bergen.edu/internationalcounseling](http://www.bergen.edu/internationalcounseling)

- F-1 Traveling Information: [http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2955.asp](http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2955.asp)
- Extensions on I-20’s: [http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2956.asp](http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2956.asp)
- For Immigration Forms, and to check on an OPT application: [http://www.bergen.edu/forms](http://www.bergen.edu/forms)
- USCIS: (United States Customs and Immigration Services) [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)
- DHS: (US Department of Homeland Security) [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)
- ICE (Immigration Customs and Enforcement): [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm)