Hello my fellow international students!

“You can walk for miles in your head and go nowhere however you can take a step in reality and go somewhere.” My friend said. Take a step, you will not regret!

I am one of the international students who chose BCC to start my journey. I came to the U.S a year ago all by myself to study abroad and this was a huge, crazy step for me to take! At the beginning of my journey at BCC, I was an ALP student. I am one of the individuals who cannot stand in my own comfort zone; I always tell myself “you have to get out there, do something, change and explore!” However, I was shy mostly because I thought my English was insufficient. After I was done with my ALP program, I started taking regular college courses and started becoming more confident with my skills. Then, I realized that language is not a barrier: that's why this semester I decided to join Student Government Association. Being a part of SGA for a semester has twisted my experience here at BCC. By being a senator for a semester clearly made me a hard worker; fast thinker and gave me the work discipline. Now I am ready to contribute all these to my position. Having adequate experience as a senator for a semester, now I am now honored to set my position in the executive board as a Treasurer and the speaker of House of Representatives.

Also, I know that a lot of you don't have your families here; I am one of you too. SGA has become my family here and now I am so excited that I enlarged my family by being a part of house of representatives. We are a huge family; and it’s our responsibility to support each other; take steps and move on together. I know that there is a wall that international students feel hard to break as a newcomer. Break it! Never be shy! BCC has over 50 clubs, SGA and other organizations! Be a part of them! Start your own club! You will never believe the perks you will get. You will see how dramatically your social life and English skills will improve.

This is why BCC is known for transforming its students into successful individuals. I also will be the support and the motivation for everyone; not just those who are already used to the environment, but also those who are not feeling confident as much because I know that I went through the same challenge. I am ready to provide assistance for you in any way necessary to help your voices to be heard and make your experiences at Bergen unforgettable like my own.

Elif Karacayir, Newly elected “Treasurer and the Speaker of the House of Representatives”

Fall Registration is OPEN! Register TODAY!

All F-1 students are required to be registered by the first day of classes (September 3rd). Also, students are permitted to register for one online (WB) or two hybrid (HY) for the mandatory 12 credits.

Need help selecting classes, see your International Counselor in C-102.
Important Change: The Department of Homeland Security announced in April 2013 that they are changing their admission procedures at the port-of-entry with regard to the I-94 form. This form is the “white card” that is typically stapled in the passport and was issued when someone enters the U.S. that is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. On this document, it provides the visa classification and the duration of status. Customs & Board Protection (CBP) will no longer issue the I-94 “white card” in paper format. However, CBP will issue an admission stamp in the passport for those who enter the U.S. by air or sea.

Below are some links that the ISC recommends that all students review. If you have questions, please stop by the ISC during walk-in hours or make an appointment.


Optional Practical Training (OPT): Any current BCC F-1 student who will be completing their degree this Summer ’13, may be eligible to apply for post-completion optional practical training (OPT). All eligible students are required to attend a mandatory OPT workshop. For times and dates, refer to the Summer 2013 Workshop Schedule.

I-20 Extensions: It’s that time to check your I-20 program end date. Any current F-1 student, who will require additional time in order to complete their degree, will need to file for an I-20 Extension Request. Visit the ISC to obtain an I-20 extension packet. All you need to do is request a packet!

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Academic Reminders

- The Registration Calendar for Summer and Fall 2013 is posted at [www.bergen.edu](http://www.bergen.edu). Students do not have to register for classes during the Summer. Anyone who wishes to register for summer,

- Any ALP student who is completing Level III, is encouraged to attend the “ALP Level III Complete, Now What?” workshop. This workshop is offered in English, Turkish, and Korean (please refer to the workshop schedule).

- Graduating this Summer or Fall? Be sure to complete the [Application for Graduation](http://www.bergen.edu).

- Want to change your major? Call the ISC and make an appointment to meet with your international counselor. It is highly recommended that you print from WebAdvisor your proposed degree and bring this with you during your appointment. There are no appointments available on Fridays.

- Haven’t taken the Math Placement Exam yet? Visit Testing (S-127) during your next available opportunity.
### TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE U.S.?

Because of recent events, students re-entering the U.S. may expect delays at the airport. Students should ALWAYS have a valid travel signature (see pg. 3 of I-20). Travel signatures are valid for one year only from the date it was last signed. (Example: if the I-20 is signed on the pg. 3 on August 14, 2012 ---- this means that this signature is still valid and will expire on August 13, 2013) **I-20s can ONLY be signed by a designated school official (DSO) in the ISC.** It is recommended that students be registered for the upcoming semester (Fall) and have a transcript with them. Transcripts can be obtained from Registration in A-129.

### Workshop Schedule
**Summer 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 29th</td>
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<td>June 17th</td>
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<td>OPT</td>
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<td>Reinstatement</td>
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<tr>
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<td>July 17th</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Reinstatement</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22nd</td>
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<td>OPT</td>
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**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 C-102, 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](http://www.bergen.edu/isc/forms).

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**International Student Association (ISA)**

The ISA will not be meeting over the summer and will regroup in September.

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**Do you have what it takes to become a leader?**

Are you...I-Team material?

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The ISC is preparing for the upcoming Fall 2013 New F-1 Student Orientation that will be held on August 29th. It’s an awesome opportunity to help new F-1 students with their general questions, familiarizing them with BCC and helping with registration. Not to mention you can put this on your resume!

Any student interested in joining an All-Star I-Team group should e-mail Mine Ugurlu ([muguru@bergen.edu](mailto:muguru@bergen.edu)). All candidates will be interviewed.

I-Team crew is expected to show up for one meeting prior to orientation to go over the expectations and your role during orientation.