



February 2021 Newsletter

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

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY – FRIDAY FEB. 14th 2021



We are glad you are here and thank you for being part of the UWG family. You are the world at UWG!

What is this day about anyway? Where did it come from? Is it just an American marketing invention?

Check out this 2:32 minute [History Channel Video](#) about St. Valentine.

TAX SEASON 2021 (FOR TAX YEAR 2020) | FILING DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2021



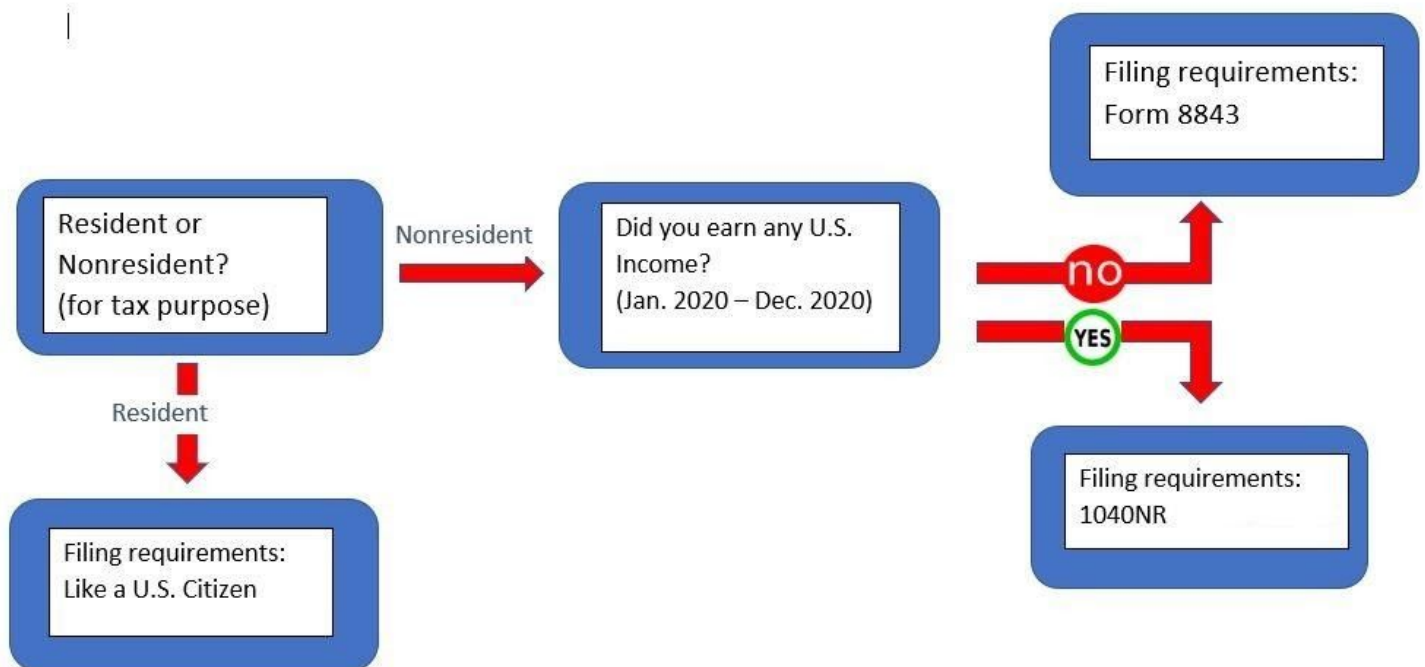
If you 1st arrived in the U.S. in 2021, **RELAX** - you don't have anything to file or do this year regarding taxes.

Everybody Else: If you were in the U.S. even 1 day, in 2020 or before, you need to understand the basic requirements. See below.

The #1 Question from International Students!

Q: I'm not a U.S. citizen, so why do I need to do this?

A: The US government might owe you a refund. If you don't file a tax return, you won't get it. If you apply for a future visa or a Green Card some day, all tax records will be required for every year you were physically present in the U.S.



Another way to understand this is:

a. Were you in the US in 2020 with income or a scholarship?

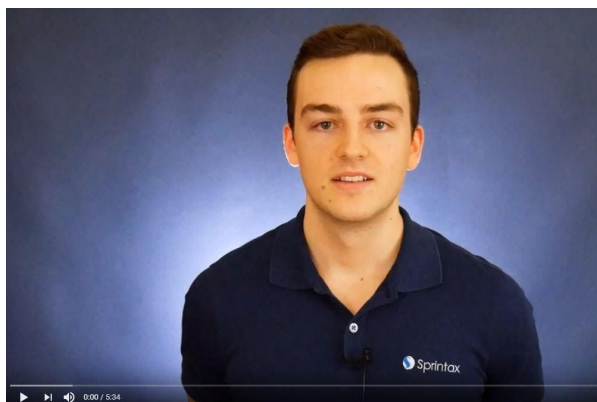
>> Prepare a complete non-resident tax return on form 1040-NR. Use Sprintax!

b. Were you in the U.S. in 2020 with **NO income** or scholarship?

>> Only complete [form 8843](#). It's a simple form. We can help.

c. Have you been in the U.S. more than 5 calendar years?

>> You might be a *Resident for Tax Purposes*. Do not use Sprintax. Use the same software or forms as Americans (1040 EZ, not 1040-NR) *NR = non-resident. Be aware that NR for tax purposes does not change your immigration status to resident. Tax status and immigration status are different.



1: Click the photo to watch a 5 minute intro video from Sprintax.

2: Review the ISAP tax information page.

3: If you had taxable income in 2020, ISAP will email a free code in late February to your UWG email. Use it to pay for Sprintax at the end.

4: Print full return or [form 8843](#). Mail it to the IRS. Keep a copy for your records. You're done!

Be aware: the Sprintax code from ISAP is only for use by UWG international students who are enrolled or on OPT. Sharing the code with anyone else is a basis for termination of your status.

NEED HELP ?

Sign up for our virtual tax help workshop!

- Friday, March 4th, 11:30 – 1pm in ISAP
- This is our free tax info workshop. It will be delivered live, online and recorded for reference.
- RSVP to: rashikaw@westga.edu

GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (GILC) - Virtual for 2021



IN THE WAVES OF CHANGE

We Find Our Direction

GILC 2021 Virtual Conference

MARCH 5-6, 2021

- Identify and market your unique value
- Flip the script
- Embrace the unknown and adapt to change
- Enhance leadership skills
- Network

SESSION PROPOSALS & REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!
CONTACT YOUR ADVISOR FOR DETAILS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
ENTREPRENEUR AND
ACTIVIST SAMANTHA
RAMIREZ-HERRERA OF
OFFTHARECORD.COM



@GILC_GA



@GA_GILC



/TheGILC



gilk.weebly.com

March 5th – 6th, 2021.

How to Express Interest:

Email ISAP staff member, Rashika Webb,
rashikaw@westga.edu

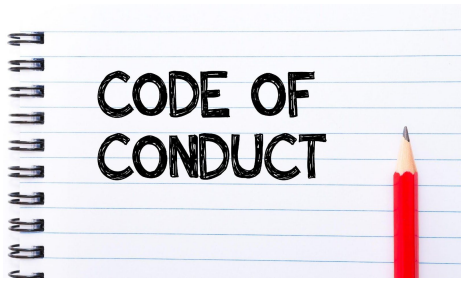
- Include 917, major of study and full name

NEW UWG MOMENTUM CENTER IS OPEN!



The Momentum Center is a “one stop shop” for all your non-immigration student needs. Check out the [Momentum Center website](#) to see how they can help.

UWG STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT >> [online here](#)



Please be reminded:

- The legal drinking age in the US is **21 years old**.
- Possession, use or distribution of pot in any form is **illegal** in Georgia and in the US, despite being legal in some states.
 - In Georgia, this is a "misdemeanor" (lower category) crime, with a possible fine of \$1000 or a year in jail. O.C.G.A. §16-13-2(b)
- A criminal conviction, including D.W.I. (Driving While Intoxicated) can lead to visa **revocation** and a 10-year travel ban to the U.S.

We encourage you to think wisely about your choices!!

REMINDERS

- **FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT.** Undergraduate - 12 credit hours. Graduates - 9 credit hours. No exceptions. ISAP will be conducting enrollment checks periodically through the semester. If you feel you need a Reduced Course Load, contact ISAP first for approval. See [Status > RCL requirements](#) online for more information.

MAKE FRIENDS | GET INVOLVED



The best way to meet new people, improve your English and be successful in the U.S. is to make friends. The best way to make American friends is to (safely) get involved in a campus organization (while socially distancing and wearing masks)!

Pick an interest, sign up, show up and say hello! It's that simple.



- List of 150+ student organization at UWG is [HERE](#)
- To sign up, register in "Wolf Connect" [HERE](#)

SPRING SEMESTER CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT



F1 & J1 students may be employed in non-federal work study jobs on campus up to 20hrs per week.

- J1 students must request employment authorization first.
- All jobs requires application for a free Social Security Card.
- Instructions for the SSN application are here >> [Support &](#)

[Services](#)

- UWG campus jobs are listed on this webpage >> [Jobs at UWG](#)

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

TAKE
THE
NEXT
STEP...



Before you can work off campus for any reason, you need official authorization via CPT or OPT. Come learn about it at our free free employment workshop: 4 this semester. Sign-up required. Details are here at [International Student Employment](#)

So, what is Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT)?

- CPT - for off-campus internships
- OPT - for off-campus employment in the U.S. after graduation in your degree field.

All Employment Workshops for Spring 2021 will be done virtually using Zoom

Upcoming Workshop Dates: ALL VIRTUAL

- Feb. 9th, 2021 – Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Feb. 18th, 2021 – Optional Practical Training (OPT)

To sign up for more details see [International Student Employment](#)

EVENTS

2021 Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC) – Virtual

March 5th – 6th, 2021.

How to Express Interest

1. Email ISAP staff member, Rashika Webb, rashikaw@westga.edu
 - Include 917, major of study and full name

2021 International Festival

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA PRESENTS



- March 2 - 5th, 2021. The pandemic cannot stop the International Festival planning team as we present International Festival 2021! This will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual events!
- Want to be on the virtual international student panel? Email Rashika Webb, rashikaw@westga.edu to express interest. We need 2 more students!
 - Time: March 2nd 2021 at noon using Zoom.
 - Format: AMA (“Ask Me Anything”) style

CONNECT WITH ISAP



- **ISAP on IG | Click the Logo**
- **International Student Admissions & Programs (ISAP) @ UWG**
Mandeville Hall | Front Campus Drive
www.westga.edu/isap | T: 678-839-4780
- **Email Us**
Include your 917 and full name
- **NO WALK IN ADVISING**