

# February 2019 | 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



We are glad you are here and thank you for being part of the UWG family. Drop by ISAP on 2/14 to say hello, get some chocolate and a hug if you need one. You are the world at UWG!

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

Check out this 2:32 minute History Channel Video.

# TAX SEASON 2019 | YOUR RESPONSIBILITY BY: APRIL 15, 2019



ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE IN THE U.S AT ANY TIME DURING 2018 HAVE AT LEAST ONE TAX FORM TO COMPLETE IN 2019 BY THE DEADLINE ABOVE.

If you arrived in the U.S. for the  $1^{st}$  time in 2019, you don't have anything to file this year. Relax:



(Internal Revenue Service)

#### The #1 Question About Taxes in the U.S.

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 ask for it, you won't get it. If you ever apply for a future visa, status or a Green Card, all tax records will be required for every year. Filing a tax form each year is the law for everyone in the U.S., regardless of income or employment.

# There are 3 general tax situations for international students (Non-Residents) in the U.S.

- a. If you were in the U.S. in 2018, and had income or a taxable scholarship:
  - >> Prepare a completed non-resident tax return. ISAP provides free access to special software designed for non-resident tax forms (1040-NR-EZ) called Sprintax.
- b. If you were in the U.S. in 2018 but had no income or scholarships:
  - >> Do not use Sprintax. Only complete form 8843. It's a simple form. We can help.
- c. If you have been in the U.S. more than 5 calendar years:
  - >> You may be considered a *Resident for Tax Purposes*. You cannot use Sprintax. Rather, you can use the same software or forms as Americans (1040 EZ)



**1:** *Click the photo* to watch a short intro video from Sprintax.



- 2: Review the <u>ISAP tax information page</u>
- **3:** If you had taxable income in 2018, log-into Sprintax. Use the free code sent to your UWG email to pay at the end. Otherwise, only complete form 8843. See the ISAP website for information.
- **4:** Print your return or form 8843 and mail it to the IRS. Keep a copy for your records.

<u>Be aware:</u> the Sprintax code provided by 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.







# What documents and information might I need to have available when preparing my tax forms?

- Passport
- US Entry and Exit Dates for current and all past visits to the US
- All income forms: Final payslips, W2 forms, 1042-S and/or 1099
- Visa/Immigration Status information, including Form DS-2019 (for J visa holders) or Form I-20 (for F visa holders)
- Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). If you do not have an ITIN, Sprintax can help you get one!
- ☑ If you are using Sprintax for State Tax Returns(s) preparation only, you will need a copy of your already prepared Federal Tax Return (for the current and previous years, if you filed any)

#### How long can I access my Sprintax online account for?

You can access your online account any time you like and if you choose to use our service in subsequent tax years, you can still access the same account.

## Where I can enter my access code (discount code)?

Simply enter the code on the Sprintax 'Review Your Order' page to get your discount.

You must have a different access code for each tax year and each code can only be used once.

You may be able to get another discount code from your educational institution.

#### How can I get help?

The Sprintax team is always here to help! Ask us anything via:

- » our live chat
  » call us for free on 1-866-601-5695
- » watch the Sprintax video » email us at hello@sprintax.com

#### **TOP TAX TIPS**

- » Forgot your password? Reset it by clicking "Forgot your password" and follow the instructions.
- » Make sure you use a valid and current email address. If you forget your password, a reset password email will be sent to the email address you gave us, so if you can't access it, confirm what address you used to register on Societa.
- » Make sure that you have all income documents for the tax year you're applying for.
- » If you need to reprint or modify your tax return, simply access your online account at sprintax.com.









## **UPDATED:** ISAP WALK-IN ADVISING HOURS & MISSION STATEMENT

• Appointments to speak with an ISAP advisor are no longer necessary. Walk-in hours are:

Monday – Friday (except Tuesday mornings), 9:30am – 11:30am Monday – Friday, 1:30pm – 4:30pm.

New ISAP Mission Statement:

To attract, enroll and retain academically qualified students from around the world through sound immigration advising, services and best practices; individual support; meaningful cross-cultural opportunities; and campus wide collaborations to expand and enhance the global dimensions of The University of West Georgia (UWG).

**UWG Values:** Achievement | Caring | Collaboration | Inclusiveness | Innovation | Integrity | Sustainability | Wisdom

# ISAP FACEBOOK = Now 498 (+8) Likes!

Follow ISAP for helpful reminders, deadlines, workshops, events and campus jobs. Just click the icon.



For questions about this information, or to be added to our distribution, please contact ISAP.

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