



## International Student Admissions & Programs (ISAP)

### January 2021 Newsletter

[www.westga.edu/isap](http://www.westga.edu/isap)

*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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- Follow ISAP on Instagram | Contact ISAP



Hello and Happy New Year **2021!**

ISAP and UWG are excited to welcome new and returning students. A great semester and year are ahead!

You are WELCOME here!



## REMINDERS & DEADLINES

- **FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIRED BY:** [January 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm](#). Enrollment options for Spring 2021 will be a continuation of Fall 2020 modifications regarding on-campus, on-line and remote. Undergraduate - 12 credit hours. Graduates - 9 credit hours.
- **DROP / ADD:** Deadline to drop or add a course to your schedule is [January 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm](#)
- **REDUCED COURSE LOAD (RCL):** Final semester? Valid medical situation? You must submit an RCL by: [January 15<sup>th</sup>, 5pm](#). RCL Details are [HERE](#)
- **TUITION & FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE:** [January 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm](#). After this date, your enrollment could be automatically dropped if not paid in full.
- **HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER DEADLINE:** [January 22<sup>th</sup> at 5pm](#). See details below.
- **SEVIS REGISTRATION TO "ACTIVE" & GEORGIA DRIVERS LICENSE:** All new and returning students will be registered to "continued attendance" in SEVIS for Spring semester 2021. If you wish to apply for a Georgia Driver License (DL), you may do after Wednesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. Details are [HERE](#).
- **CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT) APPLICATIONS:** CPT is temporary work authorization for paid or unpaid off campus internships in your field of study. The deadline to apply for Spring 2021 CPT is [Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm](#). Details are [HERE](#).

## UWG HOUSING MOVE-IN

If you have an on-campus housing contract for Spring 2021, move-in takes place this Sunday, January 11th. Refer to communication you received from UWG Housing and Residence life for details.

Housing and Residence Life Website can be found here: <https://www.westga.edu/housing/>

## MOMENTUM CENTER

Soon, you will hear more about UWG's new "1-Stop Shop" for student problem resolution. The Momentum Center is the round building behind Row Hall and Adamson Hall. Check it out! <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/momentum-center/index.php>

## SPRING 2021 HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVERS

Spring 2021 health insurance coverage dates: Jan. 1 – July 31, 2021



**Waiver Deadline: Jan. 22, 2021.**

To waive the insurance, you must provide an acceptable alternate plan through the UHC (United Health Care) waiver portal. Please note that UWG is not involved in decisions or appeals.

**Q: Where is the waiver portal?**

A: Please see: <https://www.westga.edu/academics/isap/healthinsurance.php>

**Q: What if there is no insurance charge on my account, but I'm enrolled in classes?**

A: Please email Paul Sargent [psargent@westga.edu](mailto:psargent@westga.edu) as soon as possible to verify your location, enrollment and proper coding or eligibility for a waiver based on non-US location.

**Q: What if I don't have USG approved coverage by the fee payment deadline?**

A: Your course enrollment will automatically be dropped by UWG as required by the USG. ISAP is not involved.

**Q: What if I am fully enrolled OUTSIDE the U.S for Spring 2021?**

A: Submit the following form to certify your non-U.S. location for removal of the charge.  
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/UniversityOfWestGeorgia1/OutofCountryInsuranceWaiverRequest>

**Q: Can ISAP help me find insurance that meets the USG / UHC waiver requirements?**

A: Unfortunately, ISAP is not aware of any plans that have been approved by UHC.

**Q: I think my waiver was denied in error. How can I appeal?**

A: Please email: [ship@usg.edu](mailto:ship@usg.edu) with your full name, institution name and a brief summary. ISAP is not involved in the process.

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## UWG STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT REMINDERS



ban to the U.S.

- The legal drinking age in the US is **21 years old**. Proper photo ID is required for purchase.
- 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, marijuana possession is a crime with a possible fine of \$1000 or 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

We encourage you to think wisely about your choices.

## MAKE FRIENDS | GET INVOLVED



The best way to meet new people, improve your English and be successful in the U.S. is get involved. Despite ongoing social distancing due to COVID, UWG offers [140+ Student Clubs & Organizations](#). To sign up, register in [Wolf Connect](#)



### TAX INFORMATION 2021 (FOR TAX YEAR 2020)

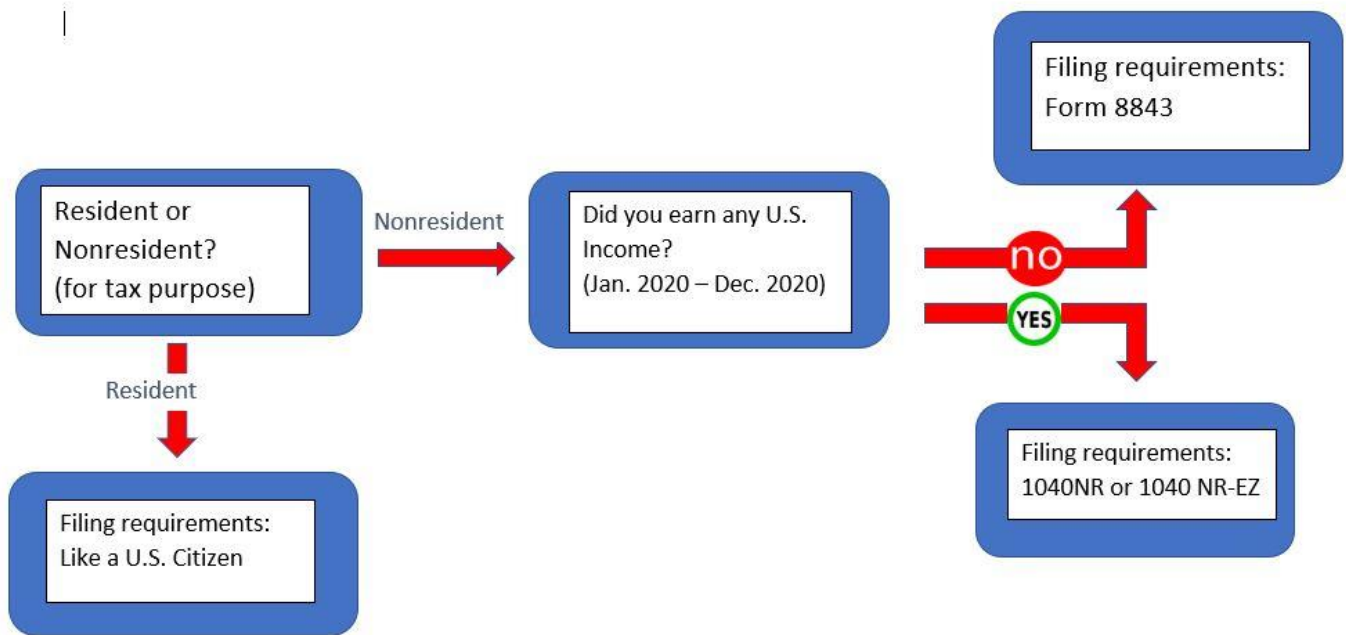
ISAP will provide information about U.S. Federal and State of Georgia Tax Returns each Spring ahead of the tax-filing deadline: [April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021](#).

#### What To Know Now:

- **DON'T BUY** Tax Prep Software: like TurboTax, H&R Block or any others! They were **not** designed for "Non-Resident" tax forms.
- ISAP will provide free access to software called Sprintax in February for all Non-Resident (international student) Federal Tax Returns.
- Everyone has at least 1 federal tax form to complete unless you arrived in the U.S. after Jan. 1, 2021. In that case there are no forms to complete this year. Details about this process are [HERE](#).



# DO I NEED TO FILE A TAX FORM OR FULL TAX RETURN?



**\*ISAP does NOT provide tax advice or tax preparation assistance, only general guidance!**



## 2021 GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (GILC)



# 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



**What:** GILC is a college student conference for international students and study abroad students from across Georgia each Spring. Participants share ideas, network and above all, develop their leadership qualities and have fun!

**Dates:** March 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Location:** VIRTUAL

**Cost:** \$5.00

[GILC Details & Video Here](#)

### To Apply:

**STEP 1:** Email Rashika Webb at [rashikaw@westga.edu](mailto:rashikaw@westga.edu) expressing your interest and willingness to commit to the conference. Include your full name, 917, and major of study in your email!

**STEP 2:** Register using the customized link sent to you from GILC - *Coming soon!*

**STEP 3:** [Review the GILC Student Checklist](#)



@GILC\_GA



@GA\_GILC



/TheGILC



gilc.weebly.com

## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA PRESENTS

# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

ISAP needs your talent, flair and help! 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!

**When:** March 1 - 5, 2021

## 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 from ISAP.
- All employment requires application for a free Social Security Card.
- Instructions for the SSN application at: [Intl Student Employment](#)
- UWG campus jobs are listed on this webpage >> [Jobs at UWG](#)

### WANT TO GET AN INTERNSHIP OR WORK OFF CAMPUS?

Reminder: Sign-up for a CPT or OPT Workshop!

#### Spring 2021 Employment Workshops

- CPT
  - Tuesday, Feb. 9th 1:30pm - 2:30pm
  - Thursday, Feb. 18th 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- OPT
  - Tuesday, Mar. 9th 1:30pm - 2:30pm
  - Friday, Mar. 19th 1:30pm - 2:30pm

For more information visit:

<https://www.westga.edu/academics/isap/employment.php>

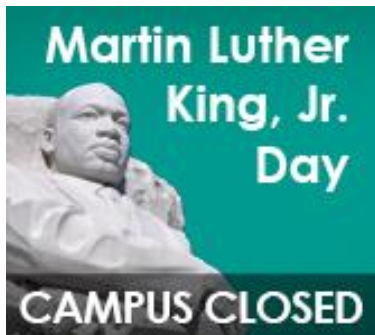


## SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

If you have a job offer or Georgia Driver's License and need to apply for a US social security #, you will need to arrange your own transportation or reserve a ride via "Carroll Connection" at: 844-778-7826 or utilize other transportation services such as Lyft or Uber.

More information is on our website under 'Current Students.'

## NATIONAL HOLIDAY



University of West Georgia will be closed: **Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Watch campus email for details (TBA) about campus plans to celebrate his legacy.

- Here [More Info About MLK](#) .

## CONNECT WITH ISAP



- **ISAP on IG | Click the Logo |**
- **International Student Admissions & Programs (ISAP) @ UWG**  
Mandeville Hall | Front Campus Drive  
[www.westga.edu/isap](http://www.westga.edu/isap) | T: 678-839-4780
- **Live Chat** during regular office hours M-F from our home page above
- **Email Us from the [ISAP Staff Directory](#)**  
Include your 917 and full name
- **No Walk-in Advising until further notice.**
- **[COVID-19 Safety Reminders](#)**