



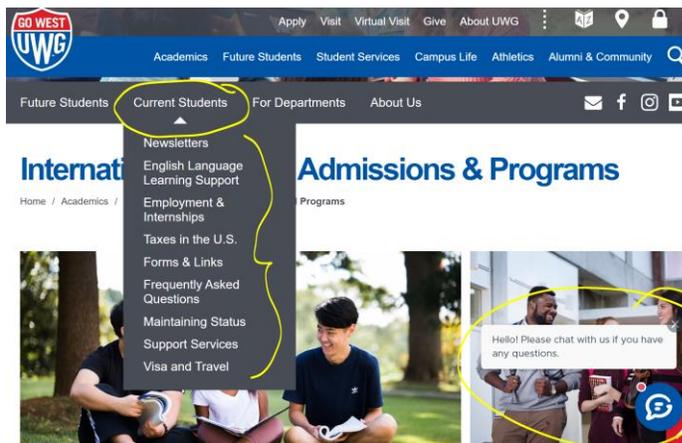
IMPORTANT UPDATES | June 5, 2020

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

UWG IS PLANNING NORMAL OPERATIONS ON CAMPUS FOR FALL 2020 AND ONWARDS.

Communicating With ISAP & Information For You

- Staff Emails listed on the [ISAP staff directory](#) (include name + 917#)
- ISAP General Email: global@westga.edu (include name + 917#)
- Live Chat During Office Hours: chat box appears on the ISAP webpage.
- Video call options (skype, facetime, google meet, zoom) upon request
- Newsletters: posted on the ISAP website > current students tab
- ISAP Website: www.westga.edu/isap > current students tab
- Various video call options (skype, facetime, google meet, zoom) upon request
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uwg.isap/>
- Walk-in Advising: *suspended until further notice*



ISAP Office Re-Opening, July 20th

In accordance with state and UWG guidelines, campus plans to re-open this Fall are being finalized. ISAP will re-open on campus, Monday, **July 20th**.

ISAP Modified Advising Procedures

Posted on our [Contact and Advising tab](#). Then scroll down.

Fall Semester 2020 - **UPDATE**

UWG will re-open campus this Fall under normal operations, but with several modifications in place to ensure safety against COVID-19. Stay tuned to UWG email for details via a new webpage soon.

- If you don't plan to return to campus this Fall, you need to let us know to protect your status. You can take a semester off and stay home, but there is a specific process to follow.
- If we don't hear from you, and you don't return, we cannot maintain your status (termination)

Fall Semester 2020 - Course Registration – **NOW OPEN**

Go to the Banweb tab in your MyUWG portal at <https://myuwg.westga.edu/>

Or, view the PowerPoint with steps on [How To Register](#)

Fall Semester 2020 – On Campus Housing | **Live West!**

Haven't finished your housing contract yet? Don't be the one to miss out on all the exciting things that living on campus has to offer: Movie Nights, free events, free food, rolling out of bed and heading straight to class, the campus as your backyard! **Complete Your Housing Contract Soon** to get the best spots from all the great options!

- Questions? Call: 678- 839-6426
- Email: housing@westga.edu
- Live Chat: at the link on our website: www.westga.edu/housing.
- [UWG Housing application](#)
- Video: [how to complete your housing application](#)
- Video: [how to find a roommate profile tool](#)

New ISC Officers Announced (International Student Club)

- **President:** Zere Tamar Mangai
- **Vice President:** Brian Kamau
- **Secretary of Membership:** Jubilee Ojibo
- **Secretary of Social Events:** Paris Green
- **Marketing Coordinator:** Chisom Dilloria

To Join ISC: Log into [WolfConnect](#). Search "International Student Club." Click the blue "join" button. Free and no dues. An ISC officer will accept your request to join.

4 International Students Win Scholarships!

Congratulations! to Brian Kamau, Sreekanth Gopi and Deborah Wawerua who each received the Sylvia Shortt International Student Scholarship. Faith Umeh received the Carrollton Junior Women's Scholarship. They were featured in the April ["Points of Pride"](#) on the UWG President's Website.

Tax Filing Deadline: July 15th (Both Federal and State Taxes)

- Everyone physically in the U.S. in 2019 (even 1 day) has at least 1 tax form to submit. ISAP offers a free Sprintax code to prepare your non-resident tax forms.
- All the info is here: <https://www.westga.edu/academics/isap/taxes.php>

Most Common Tax Question: What if I don't file any tax forms?

- If the U.S. or Georgia owes you money, you won't get it.
- If you owe U.S. taxes and don't pay, future visas will be denied + late fees.
- If you apply for a future U.S. visa but can't document your taxes = problems.

F1 & J1 Employment & Internships

- If you graduated and want to stay in the U.S. to work, you will need to apply for OPT before the end of your 60 day grace period: **July 8th**
- Details about OPT are on the [ISAP employment & internships page](#).

VISA Renewals

If you are outside the U.S with an expired visa, you will have to renew your visa to return to campus. Check with the U.S Embassy or Consulate nearest you for procedures and appointments.

What is 3rd Culture? – A Shared Essay

Surprisingly, reverse culture shock (returning home) is much more difficult and unexpected than the original culture shock you experience when you came to the U.S. You expect to have culture shock when you go abroad, but not when you return home. You expect everything to be the same, but it's not. You have changed and your culture has changed, and now you have to make the adjustment. To be perfectly honest, while you do make the transition eventually, it is never 100% because now, you are a third culture person; no longer totally and only part of your own culture, but never totally part of the new culture. So, you are something between the two. My wife and I, for example, find that being back in the USA for so many years, we fit in much better with third culture people than we do with our own. So, that's what you are experiencing and will continue to experience, though it gets easier soon. Today, we still feel more "at home" with third-culture people than we do with the general American society. There have been some books written about that and you can also read articles about it online. Perhaps they would help you. Also, people who grow up in a third culture setting (diplomatic kids, missionary kids, etc.) frequently (1) marry another third-culture person, (2) work in a third-culture like a multi-national, or international organization. And, I found more and more as I served as the pastor of the international, English-language churches in places like the Czech Republic and Kyrgyzstan, that while those churches were primarily founded for English-speaking expats living in those countries they were also including a large number of local third-culture people who had studied or worked abroad and had trouble fitting back into their normal, local churches and society.

Ken MacHarg | kensintrospect.wordpress.com