

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

International Student Centre (ISC)

Issue 6



NEWSLETTER February 2011

Latest News from ISC for all the EU/International Students



Welcome to 6th edition of the ISC newsletter for EU/International students from the International Student Centre!

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions for items to include in the newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Or if you have ideas on the types of social activities or events you would like to see the ISC organise, please let us know. You can either e-mail us at isc@staffs.ac.uk or come to the office. We are located on the ground floor of Thomson Library – Room B4 Cadman Building on the Stoke campus and in Room D001a, Beacon Building on the Stafford campus.

Forthcoming Events



Diversity Fashion Show 2011

This year Student's Union is looking for creative, unique and exciting people to come and take part in their Diversity Fashion Show 2011 on the 15 March at the LRV. Every year the Students' Union uses this event as a way for students of all ages, ethnicities, shapes and sizes to strut their stuff on the catwalk as a celebration of individuality.

If you feel you'd like to get involved weekly meetings are held on Thursdays at 4-6pm at the LRV. Please come along to meet the team and other volunteers to have a chat about what you'd like to do.

give it a go...

This is the Students' Union activity programme that allows you to make the most of your time here at University by being able to try a range of new and different activities - hassle and commitment free.

There's a fantastic, action-packed programme of events for you to take part in - you can choose from a range of different activities including scuba diving to TV workshops, and loads in between, meaning you're spoilt for choice!

For more information please contact student union or go to their website

<http://www.staffsunion.com/activities/giveitago/>

ISC Events and Trips...

Please keep checking your emails for any information regarding upcoming trips and social activities. We are currently preparing a calendar of activities which we will circulate shortly. This includes trips to various locations around the UK and cultural events to bring you all together to enjoy your time getting to know each other..



Upcoming Visa Extension Workshop....

2nd February 2011 ,2nd March 2011 & 6th April 2011

These workshops are designed to help you complete the visa extension form and to let you know what else you will need to send with your visa application.

Please come and register for the workshop at the campus where you study

ISC in Stoke—Room B4, Cadman Building

ISC in Stafford—Room D001a, Beacon Building or

send an email to isa@staffs.ac.uk

If you wish to submit through the **Student Batch Scheme** (where we send your application to the UKBA on your behalf) then please note the last date we will accept your application is one week before your visa expires.



Passport and Visa copies

Please remember if you have received a new visa, or you have a new passport then you must come to the ISC offices in Stoke and Stafford so we can see them and take copies.

We are legally required by the Home Office to have copies of all passports and visas of all International Students.

Visa & Immigration Information

Government Consultation on Tier 4

On the 31 January the Government closed the Tier 4 consultation. We know that well over 20,000 responses were received by the government. The UKBA will now be reading and consolidating all these responses and sending their report to the Government. At this point we do not know what this report will contain or what will be suggested. Once we do know we will be letting you know and what the likely changes are.

Post Study Work (PSW) Visa

There has been an increase in the number of rumours regarding PSW. Below outlines the current situation (as we know it) regarding PSW applications.

- Q. **I am still studying and the UKBA web site says that if I have a student visa I can apply for post study work, does this mean that I can apply before the award board?**
- A. No, what the web site means is that to switch into a PSW Visa you need to have a visa in the Student or Tier 4 category. You can only apply for a PSW visa after you have been awarded a degree i.e. after the award board has met and confirmed the award
- Q. **I have heard that you can't apply for PSW outside of the UK?**
- A. This is not true, at present the only route closed to applications from outside the UK is Tier 1 (general).
- Q. **I have heard that PSW is going to end, is this true?**
- A. At the moment, it is uncertain what will happen with the PSW visa. This route has been included in the Tier 4 consultation and one option the government is suggesting is to remove this option. This does not mean that it will happen. We will know more after the government has reviewed the responses to the consultation document and made its decision. We will keep you informed of any developments.



Chinese New Year at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery 13 Feb 2011 10.30am - 4pm



Once again The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery in Hanley is celebrating the Chinese New Year with a wide range of performances, demonstrations and activities. This popular festival represents many aspects of traditional Chinese culture and brings a touch of the orient to Stoke-on-Trent.

The event will open to the sound of traditional firecrackers and the dragon dance a colourful spectacular sight believed to bring good luck, power and dignity. There will also be performances of the lion dance another customary display believed to bring good luck and prosperity.

During the day you will witness many impressive demonstrations including martial arts, ribbon dancing, the peacock dance and contortionism. In the museum theatre there will be traditional song and dance performances from children in the local Chinese community and a short recital of Cantonese Opera.

Please note that the museum will be open from 10am on this day only and the event is free for everyone. For more information please contact Melanie Firman on 01782 232323 or e-mail melanie.firman@stoke.gov.uk



Cream of the Crop - Staffordshire University Graduates 2000 - 2010 Shire Hall Gallery, Saturday 15 Jan 11 - 27 Feb 11

Staffordshire University offers a large number of art, craft and design related courses and has helped to guide many successful craft makers currently on the UK scene into setting up their own small businesses. This exhibition showcases beautiful handmade items by ten successful graduates who work with a variety of materials.

Free Entry. Opening times Mon - Sat 9:30 - 5:00;
Tues 10:00 - 5:00 & Sun 1:00 - 4:00

Contact the Gallery on 01785 278345



More....

Student Surveys 2011



If you are in your final year of study on an undergraduate award and due to graduate in July 2011 then please complete the The National Student Survey (NSS). This survey gives you the opportunity to report on your overall student experience. Your views will also help to inform the choices of prospective Higher Education students about where and what to study. The survey is open now at www.thestudentsurvey.com

What's more, if you complete the survey before the 31 March 2011, you will be entered into a Prize Draw to win an iPad 16Gb Wifi or £350 for one lucky student!



In February, the University will launch the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and the Student Viewfinder Survey 2011 for all remaining students.

Keep checking your university email accounts for your invitation to complete a survey and be entered into a Prize Draw.

Beaconside Health Centre

To all students registered with Beaconside Health Centre. If you have changed your address since first registering with the Practice and have not informed the Health Centre of the change please update them with your new details as a matter of urgency. The Health Centre currently has several hundred registrations with incorrect details. If we cannot obtain the updated details the registrations will be deducted from our Practice.

The consequences of this will mean that you will no longer be registered at the Practice and will therefore not be entitled to General Practitioner services on campus.



Join us on Facebook



We are now on facebook and we will be using our facebook page to let you know about

upcoming trips and events, so please go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Student-Centre-Staffordshire-University/125216904176516?ref=sgm> and like our page.

If you have problems accessing it you can get to our page by visiting <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/international/support/> and clicking on the facebook button.