



SCAD

— INTERNATIONAL —

STUDENT GUIDE

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# WELCOME TO SCAD

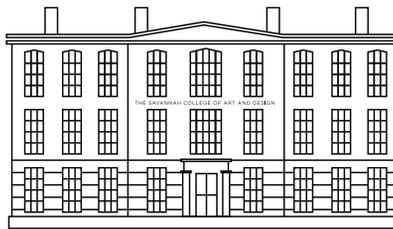
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We are pleased you have joined us at SCAD. One of the reasons our university is such an exciting environment for artistic exploration is that our student body is composed of talented individuals from more than 100 countries.

International student services office staff members, with whom you have already been corresponding, will support you through your entire SCAD experience. They are here for you any time; just call, send an email or stop by.

The details in this book will help you understand important parts of student life and explain many of the rules and services you'll encounter.

Let's get started.





## CONTACTING ISSO

ISSO offers wide-ranging support to SCAD international students from offices in Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia.

Please seek assistance from ISSO staff members when you have questions or concerns about cross-cultural issues, campus employment, housing, immigration requirements and forms, personal matters, the surrounding community, travel or any part of university life.

Email ISSO only from your SCAD student email account and include your name and SCAD ID number in each message.

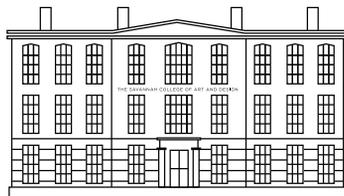
### VISIT US

#### SCAD Savannah

Norris Hall  
548 E. Broughton St.  
Savannah, Georgia  
912.525.7301  
isso@scad.edu  
facebook.com/scadisso

#### SCAD Atlanta

1600 Peachtree St.  
Atlanta, Georgia  
404.253.3104  
issoatl@scad.edu  
facebook.com/scadissoatl



## MAIL PROCEDURES

If you will be living in a SCAD residence hall, you will be issued a mailbox and key during orientation. Until then, you may have mail and small packages sent temporarily to the ISSO. All packages should be addressed to you using the below guidelines.

### SAVANNAH STUDENTS

[Your name with student ID number]  
International Student Services Office  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
P.O. Box 3146  
Savannah, GA 31402 USA

### ATLANTA STUDENTS

[Your name with student ID number]  
International Student Services Office  
SCAD Atlanta  
1600 Peachtree St.  
Atlanta, GA 30309 USA

## STUDENT CONDUCT

Read and understand the material in the SCAD Student Handbook and the SCAD Code of Student Conduct. There is also a sub-section on international student services in the handbook; you will receive a copy of this at orientation.

Upon your initial log in to MySCAD, you agreed to comply with the responsibilities outlined in the handbook.

## MYSCAD INTRANET

MySCAD is the university's Web portal for all current students. Within MySCAD, you will find information about your program of study, your courses, and get access to Blackboard and the Academic Resource Network.

You will also find details on ISSO offerings and events, links to important forms and documents, and contact information for ISSO advisers. Log in to MySCAD and navigate to the Resources tab. In the Department Directory channel, scroll down until you see International Student Services and select the appropriate link based on your location in Savannah or Atlanta.

### CONTACT UPDATES

If you move or get a new phone number, you must update your address and contact information in MySCAD. You are legally required to report these changes within 10 days to comply with U.S. government regulations.

### NAME CHANGES

Report name changes to ISSO and the registrar's office at your location.

#### Savannah registrar

Bradley Hall  
115 E. York St.  
registrar@scad.edu  
912.525.5800

#### Atlanta registrar

Student Success Center  
Rooms 125 and 127  
1600 Peachtree St.  
registrar@scad.edu  
404.253.3425 or 404.253.3103



## ISSO NEWS

Stay connected with ISSO by reading our email newsletter. It's packed with information about SCAD events, exciting day and weekend trips, and upcoming immigration requirements, insurance due dates and more.

You will receive this email through your student email address. If you wish to have this newsletter sent to another address, email your request to [isso@scad.edu](mailto:isso@scad.edu) and include "Subscribe to ISSO" in the subject line.

## ISSO MISSION

ISSO exists to help international students have a positive educational and co-curricular experience at SCAD while they pursue their education and career goals.





## TRANSPORTATION AND SECURITY

SCAD provides free bus service between university buildings and residence halls during the academic quarters. You can see Savannah schedules and track buses in real time at [scad.edu/beeline](http://scad.edu/beeline).

For Atlanta, click the vertical Atlanta icon at the top right of that same page.

Find more information on SCAD Department of Public Safety in MySCAD, under the Department Directory channel.

Savannah  
Department of Public Safety  
[security@scad.edu](mailto:security@scad.edu)  
912.525.4500

Atlanta  
Department of Public Safety  
[security@scad.edu](mailto:security@scad.edu)  
404.253.3333



## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

All students must abide by U.S. laws concerning illegal drugs and age restrictions on the sale and use of alcohol and tobacco products. The legal drinking age in Georgia is 21.

Consumption or display of drugs or alcohol in residence halls, on SCAD premises or during SCAD events is strictly prohibited, regardless of age. Contact an ISSO adviser if you have questions concerning U.S. drug and alcohol laws.

## IMMIGRATION AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to keeping up with your coursework, you must also be aware of passport and immigration form deadlines and expiration dates. A brief explanation of these documents follows.

### PASSPORT

Nonimmigrant students are required by U.S. federal law to maintain a valid passport. You should renew your passport six months before it is set to expire. Contact your embassy or one of your consulates to renew or replace a lost or stolen passport.

To contact your embassy or consulate, call 202.555.1212 for directory assistance and ask the operator for the telephone number. A list of foreign embassies in the U.S. is available at [embassy.org](http://embassy.org).

### VISAS

F-1 and J-1 visas can be obtained only from a U.S. embassy or consulate outside of the U.S. These visas authorize you to enter the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status, allow you to present yourself at a U.S. port of entry and to be interviewed by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP, inspector.

The expiration date on your F-1 or J-1 visa indicates the last day you may enter the U.S. in that status. It does not govern how long you can remain legally in the U.S.

If your F-1 or J-1 visa expires while you are in the U.S., you may remain here in legal status. If your visa has expired and you plan to travel outside the U.S., a new, valid student visa will be required for re-entry.

Websites for all U.S. embassies and consulates are available at [usembassy.state.gov](http://usembassy.state.gov).



### STUDENT VISA

Your student visa may expire while you are in the U.S.

### FORM I-94

The Form I-94 is the document CBP uses to confer immigration status when you lawfully enter the U.S. You can find and complete this form online at [cbp.gov/i94](http://cbp.gov/i94) within 72 hours of your arrival in the U.S.

The 11-digit admission number on the Form I-94 is used to monitor your arrival and departure. When you entered the country, a CBP inspector at the port of entry determined your status in the U.S., how long you may remain in that status and recorded this information on your Form I-94.

You should print this document after each entry into the U.S. and keep it with your important records.

## F-1 STUDENTS

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or SEVIS, Form I-20 you have in your possession grants you eligibility for nonimmigrant F-1 entry into a college or university in the U.S. F-1 visa students who leave the U.S. for longer than five months for any reason will forfeit their F-1 visa student status and lose all associated benefits.

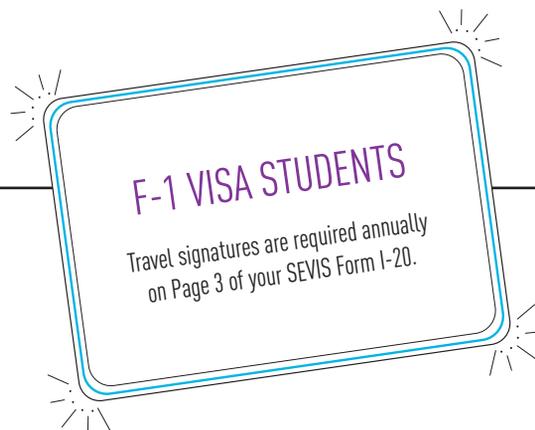
### KEEP IT WITH YOU

You should retain Pages 1-3 of the SEVIS Form I-20 at all times. The date listed in Line 5 is the date your stay in the U.S. expires. Do not allow your SEVIS Form I-20 to expire or you will lose your F-1 visa status.

### SEVIS FORM I-20 EXTENSIONS

Request a SEVIS Form I-20 program extension with the ISSO at least one month before your form is set to expire. If your SEVIS Form I-20 expires, you will no longer have F-1 visa status and will be required to pay a fee to apply for reinstatement with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS. In most cases, students must return to their home country to reapply.

Extension instructions are available in MySCAD under the Resources tab, Department Directory channel, "International Student Services" link.



### TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S.

If you plan to travel outside the U.S., you must obtain a signature from ISSO authorizing travel on Page 3 of your SEVIS Form I-20. The ISSO signature is valid for 12 months during a program of study and six months during Optional Practical Training.

### EARLY COMPLETION

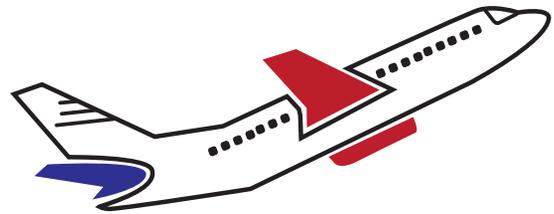
If you complete your coursework prior to the end date shown on Line 5 of the SEVIS Form I-20, the document becomes invalid. After graduation, you have a 60-day grace period to decide what your next course of action will be.

## J-1 STUDENTS

**J-1 visa students should make travel plans only during breaks between quarters. If you are completing your ESL studies, you may be required to participate in ESL training during break periods between quarters.**

J-1 visa students who leave the U.S. in the middle of a quarter or without permission from their program sponsor for any reason may jeopardize their J-1 visa student status and exchange sponsorship. Check with your ISSO adviser before making travel plans.

All exchange visitors on a J-1 visa must have a SEVIS-generated Form DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status provided by their program sponsor. The main requirements of this visa status are on Page 2 of the form.



## SEVIS FORM DS-2019

The SEVIS Form DS-2019 must be valid during your stay and reflect your current academic status. Only your program sponsor can make changes or updates to this form; SCAD is not responsible for your SEVIS Form DS-2019.

Be aware of the dates for which you have been approved for study in the U.S. The end date is indicated in Box 3. The U.S. government gives students a 30-day grace period to depart the U.S. after the end date listed on this form.

## TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S.

If you need to travel outside the U.S. during your exchange period, you must obtain permission from your program sponsor along with the sponsor's signature on Page 1 of your SEVIS Form DS-2019. A second signature may be required from SCAD.

To be eligible for readmission to the U.S. after travel, you must present:

- » A valid nonimmigrant visa
- » A passport valid for six months beyond the anticipated period of admission
- » A properly executed SEVIS Form DS-2019



## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

SCAD operates on a quarter system. Classes are just 10 weeks long and we offer four quarters of instruction each year.

Because of the way our classes are organized, it's imperative you attend every class or you will quickly fall behind.

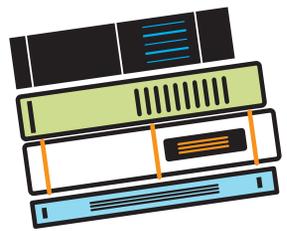
### FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

If you are an F-1 visa student, you must be enrolled as a full-time student in order to maintain your visa status. Full-time study is defined by USCIS as 15 quarter-credit hours for undergraduates and 10 quarter-credit hours for graduate students. You must consult an ISSO adviser before withdrawing from a course or course of study to avoid jeopardizing your status.

All undergraduate students must be enrolled in three classes per quarter. For undergraduate students enrolling in three classes, only one may be an online class.

All graduate students must be enrolled in two classes per quarter. For graduate students enrolling in two classes, only one may be an online class.

For students who are enrolling in more than the minimum requirement of two or three classes, extra classes may be online classes.



### TRANSIENT COURSEWORK

F-1 visa students are allowed to take transient coursework at other universities provided the majority of their coursework is taken at SCAD each quarter. Restrictions apply and students must get permission from their student success adviser and ISSO staff in advance of registering for courses outside of SCAD.

Most schools use a semester system, with academic calendars that are quite different from SCAD's. Semester courses are weighted differently than quarter courses in terms of meeting full-time F-1 visa enrollment requirements. An ISSO adviser can assist you with understanding the requirements for maintaining F-1 visa status while engaging in transient coursework.

### ELEARNING CLASSES

F-1 visa students may count one eLearning class toward the full-time enrollment requirement each quarter. Your sponsor must permit students to take eLearning classes. Participants in the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program and Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission are not permitted to take eLearning classes.

Summer is the only quarter F-1 visa students may enroll in only eLearning courses.

## BREAKS DURING STUDY

The normal academic year includes three quarters: fall, winter and spring. As an international student at SCAD, you are entitled to take a break only during summer quarter.

Know your program responsibilities for summer as each student's program can vary greatly. Some programs require academic training, full-time ESL training or academic study in the summer. Follow the requirements outlined in your program.

Students who wish to graduate early, declare more than one major or take additional electives may enroll for classes during summer quarter. SCAD international students are not required to enroll for summer quarter unless summer is the first quarter of study. Please be aware course offerings may be limited during summer quarter.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The lone exception to the break in study rule is if you decide to take a leave of absence by leaving the U.S. Contact ISSO for more information on taking a leave of absence and to complete the required documentation in order to maintain your F-1 visa status during such a period.



## INCOME TAXES

All international students are required to file tax forms. Students working on campus or who engage in paid Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training, and students who have scholarships that provide funds beyond tuition are required to pay U.S. taxes.

In many instances, students may be eligible for a tax refund and should file an Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, Form 1040. The deadline to file is April 15 each year.

International students on an F-1 or J-1 visa who are non-residents for tax purposes are required by law to file a tax report IRS Form 8843 each year, even if they did not work or receive income.

If your spouse or dependents are on an F-2 or J-2 visa and have been living in the U.S. for any part of the tax year, you must also file a tax report IRS Form 8843 for them with the Internal Revenue Service, even if they did not work or receive income.

Read more about U.S. taxes and your responsibilities within the ISSO department directory in MySCAD. Look for updates and deadlines in the ISSO email newsletter each winter and spring quarter.

## OTHER IMPORTANT U.S. DOCUMENTS

There are several major documents nearly every U.S. citizen uses in daily life. Keep reading for an explanation of each and to learn how to obtain them.

### SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

This nine-digit identification number is assigned to citizens, some temporary residents and permanent residents in order to track their income and credit records, and determine U.S. and local government benefit entitlements.

You may be asked for a Social Security number if you apply for a car loan, set up cellphone service or rent an apartment, for example.

It is possible to live in the U.S. without a Social Security number. Visit the ISSO department directory link in MySCAD to learn more.

### SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

You will need a Social Security card that has your Social Security number on it in order to work in the U.S., but you must have an offer of employment before you can apply for the card. You can find general information about Social Security cards by visiting [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov).

If you choose to apply for a Social Security number and card, protect these items as you would your passport.



### DRIVER'S LICENSE AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS

U.S. citizens use their driver's licenses or state-issued identification cards as the primary way of proving their identity. These cards are much easier to replace than a passport and include your photo, physical address and a unique state-issued ID number. The driver's license is also linked to law enforcement agencies, so it can give you a greater sense of security in case of emergency.

You should obtain a driver's license or state-issued ID card because you will need identification to cash checks, rent a car or check in to a hotel. Identification may also be requested if you are buying certain items where proof of age is required.

Visit the Georgia Department of Driver Services at [dds.ga.gov](http://dds.ga.gov) to learn more about obtaining a driver's license and a state ID card.

VISIT  
DDS.GA.GOV

to learn more about obtaining a

DRIVER'S  
LICENSE  
and  
STATE  
ID CARD



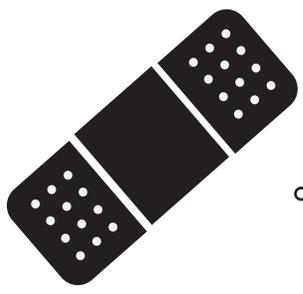
## U.S. INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE

Health care in the U.S. is extremely expensive. To protect you from the potential financial impacts, SCAD requires all international students to maintain adequate health insurance coverage for the entire academic year. Mandatory health insurance charges will be added to your student account each fall quarter.

F-1 visa students are automatically enrolled in the SCAD international student health insurance plan provided by UnitedHealthcare Student Resources. The policy brochure is available at [uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad).

Download UnitedHealthcare's smartphone app to access information about your policy, check claims status and more at [uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad). The app is available for iPhone and Android.

COVERED	NOT COVERED
Fees for the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and accidents (70-90 percent of medical bills)	Acne treatments
Prescriptions for illnesses and injuries (80 percent)	Cosmetic surgery
Professional ambulance service	Vision care
Expenses for treatment of mental and nervous disorders	Dental care



## PROOF OF INSURANCE

You will receive a new health insurance card with a new policy number each year via your student email address. Remember to present your insurance card for the current year when receiving health services so your medical bills will be accurate.

## STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

The student health center in Savannah can treat minor illnesses. If you go there, you will not have to pay the \$50 deductible associated with each illness or injury. You are responsible for 10 percent of your covered medical expenses.

Sign-up and walk-in schedules may change so it is best to call for more information on current schedules.



### SCAD STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

300 Bull St., Suite 102  
Savannah, Georgia  
912.231.9956

## ON-CALL NURSE ASSISTANCE

NurseOne is a free call center you can access at any hour of the day or night. Describe your symptoms and a registered nurse will offer suggestions on how to care for your illness or injury.

Explain that you are an international student and are unfamiliar with how medical services are provided in the U.S., so the nurse will give you very detailed instructions.

### NurseOne

912.350.9355 (In Savannah)

800.420.9355 (Free anywhere in the U.S.)

## EMERGENCY CARE

If you have a true medical emergency and call an ambulance, you will be taken to an emergency room. U.S. emergency rooms are open 24 hours a day. Unless you are experiencing a true emergency, it is best to avoid going to an emergency room for a minor illness because visits can be very expensive.

Dial 911 if you need an ambulance.

## PHARMACIES IN THE U.S.

Medications for common ailments such as colds, rashes, stomachaches, mild allergies, etc., can be purchased at a pharmacy. If you are unsure about which products to purchase, ask the pharmacist on duty to recommend a medication for your condition.

CVS Pharmacy is located in downtown Savannah and can assist with most medication needs.

### CVS Pharmacy

119 Bull St.

Savannah, Georgia

912.232.1129

## CARE BY A PHYSICIAN

**U.S. health insurance companies operate using networks of preferred providers. These physicians have a contract with an insurance company to provide certain types of care for an agreed-upon price.**

This means, if you go to a doctor or hospital in the network that your SCAD insurance provider prefers, you will be responsible for paying a \$50 deductible plus 10 percent of your medical bills. To find out if a doctor or hospital is “in network,” visit [uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad).

Physicians' offices usually have regular business hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you need to see a physician after hours, you can visit an urgent care facility.

## LOCAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS — SAVANNAH

If you are sick and the student health center is closed, you can visit one of the following locations.

### Memorial Health University Medical Center (In Network)

4700 Waters Ave.

912.350.8000 | [memorialhealth.com](http://memorialhealth.com)

### Southern Urgent Care (In Network)

10 Whitaker St.

912.401.0682 | [southernuc.com](http://southernuc.com)

### Candler Hospital (In Network)

5353 Reynolds St.

912.819.6000 | [sjchs.org](http://sjchs.org)

### UrgentOne (In Network)

14089 Abercorn St.

912.350.2121

[memorialhealth.com/urgentcare](http://memorialhealth.com/urgentcare)

### Urgent Care of Historic Savannah (Out of Network)

144 Lincoln St.

912.234.3714 | [urgentcare247.com](http://urgentcare247.com)

## LOCAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS — ATLANTA

### Piedmont Minor Emergency Clinic (In Network)

3108 Piedmont Rd. NE  
404.237.1755  
piedmontminor.com

### Piedmont Hospital (In Network)

1968 Peachtree Rd. NW  
404.605.5000  
piedmont.org

## COST OF CARE

**Health insurance does not cover 100 percent of medical costs in the U.S. When you arrive in a medical facility, you will be asked to provide your health insurance ID card and pay the \$50 deductible prior to receiving treatment.**

The medical provider will then work with your health insurance company and mail you a bill at a later date. These bills can arrive up to several months after you receive treatment. Some exceptions to this rule are outlined below, so please keep reading.

## EMERGENCY ROOMS

If you use Memorial Health University Medical Center, Candler Hospital Emergency Room or Piedmont Hospital for a non-emergency, your deductible will be \$50 and you will be expected to pay 10 percent of your total bills.

In general, the cost of even very basic care in the emergency room is significantly higher in comparison to a physician's office or urgent care facility.

If you visit the hospital for a true emergency, the cost to you will be the \$50 deductible plus 10 percent of covered medical expenses.

## SOUTHERN URGENT CARE AND URGENTONE

If you visit either of these in-network providers, your cost will be the \$50 deductible plus 10 percent of covered medical expenses.

Southern Urgent Care is conveniently located in downtown Savannah. UrgentOne is located approximately 14 miles from the historic district and is accessible by car, taxi or CAT Bus 114.

## URGENT CARE OF HISTORIC SAVANNAH

Urgent Care of Historic Savannah is an out-of-network provider that offers 24/7 medical service in Savannah's historic district. However, this clinic is out of network and does not bill insurance companies. This means you must pay 100 percent of your bill up front and file a claim with the insurance company for a reimbursement of 70 percent minus the \$50 deductible.

## EMERGENCY ROOM COST

*In general, the cost of even very basic care in the emergency room is significantly higher in comparison to a physician's office or urgent care facility.*

## HEALTH CARE OUTSIDE THE U.S.

If you are traveling and become ill or injured and must seek medical care, your SCAD student health insurance covers you anywhere in the U.S. and outside the U.S.

Visit [uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad) to find a doctor or hospital in the area that is within the network.

## SCAD HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDER

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### UnitedHealthcare Student Resources

P.O. Box 809025  
Dallas, Texas 75380-9025 USA  
[uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad)  
866.948.8472



## LEARN MORE

For claims and policy details,  
create your account  
at [uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad).

## ISSO ASSISTANCE WITH CLAIMS

When you receive health care in the U.S., it is not uncommon to receive multiple bills from several providers. For example, after seeking emergency treatment, you may receive separate bills for the ambulance ride, physician, lab work, anesthesia, etc.

It is also common for bills to take several weeks to arrive by mail. Be sure to keep all medical bills for your records. You will also receive an Explanation of Benefits from UnitedHealthcare Student Resources for each bill that it receives.

Before paying a medical bill, you should review it and verify the health insurance company has already paid its percentage.

If you would like assistance understanding your medical bills, the Explanation of Benefits, or filing health insurance claims, the ISSO can help.

For more information about your policy or to file a claim, visit [uhcsr.com/scad](http://uhcsr.com/scad).



## CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Traveling to another country to study can be a wonderful, exciting experience, but exposure to a new country and lack of familiarity with local behaviors and customs can make it harder to adjust to university life and achieve your academic goals.

“Culture Shock” describes the difficulty some people have adjusting to life in a new culture.

Use these tips for a smooth adjustment.

- » Recognize it
- » Think positively
- » Keep a sense of humor
- » Keep an open mind
- » Write in a journal
- » Set realistic goals
- » Get involved
- » Ask for help

### ASK FOR HELP

It is especially important to contact ISSO staff members if your feelings are impacting your success as a student. Professional counselors are also available to speak with you confidentially.

### COUNSELING AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**SCAD Savannah**  
 Bradley Hall, Room 124  
 counseling@scad.edu  
 912.525.6971

**SCAD Atlanta**  
 Student Success Center, first floor  
 atl@scad.edu  
 404.253.3400



## GET INVOLVED

Intercultural clubs, socials and discussion groups will help you make connections with fellow students, understand cultural differences and increase your comfort living and studying in a new country. We strongly encourage you to explore these options.

### TEA AND TALK – SAVANNAH

Tea and Talk is a social hour where international and American SCAD students can network, exchange cultures and gain support from one another. The Tea and Talk schedule is available online at [blog.scad.edu/teaandtalk](http://blog.scad.edu/teaandtalk).



### INTERCULTURAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION – SAVANNAH

Known as ISA, this diverse cultural club allows you to interact with other students from different backgrounds on a weekly basis. Engage in and learn about other cultures in a social environment. Any student can join and, this year, ISA is looking for new members and officers.

For more information, join the ISA Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/2204932828/](https://facebook.com/groups/2204932828/) members or email [isa@scad.edu](mailto:isa@scad.edu).

### UNI – ATLANTA

UNI, the intercultural club of SCAD Atlanta, is a student organization targeted toward but not limited to international students. It focuses on creating connections between international and American students and increasing cross-cultural awareness through programs and events.

UNI is open to graduate and undergraduate students. Want more information? Join the UNI Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/298053375573](https://facebook.com/groups/298053375573).

### TRANSITIONS GROUP — ATLANTA

Transitions is a group where international students support and are supported by each other as they navigate through the transition to university life in the U.S. Transitions is sponsored by ISSO and counseling and student support services, and meets every few weeks to discuss such topics as adjusting to a new culture, holding onto values, managing when values clash and coping with stereotypes.

Contact counseling and student support services if you want to join Transitions.

### EVENTS AND TRIPS

The ISSO team plans an exciting array of events and activities each year for your enjoyment and to bring you together with your fellow students and the surrounding community. Read the ISSO email newsletter for up-to-date details on these events and more.

### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The International Festival is the largest annual event coordinated by ISSO and takes place in April.

The event is open to the public and features traditional music, dance, art and food to celebrate the diversity of SCAD's international arts community. We often have reggae bands, Irish dancers and student groups perform.

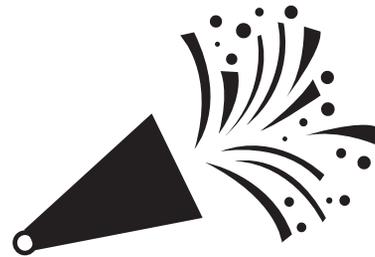
International students are encouraged to get involved and wear cultural attire and display cultural items. You could perform a traditional dance, host a country or culture booth to share foods from your home country, or sell jewelry or artwork.

### TASTE OF THE WORLD FESTIVAL

Taste of the World is an ISSO-coordinated annual event that is usually held the first week of November. You're invited to submit recipes from your home country, which are then served in the SCAD dining halls.

### FAR FROM HOME

ISSO and SCAD Language Studio host the "Far From Home" exhibition and reception annually. A call for entries is issued each winter. Students who submit work have the opportunity to be featured in the gallery and win awards for their work.

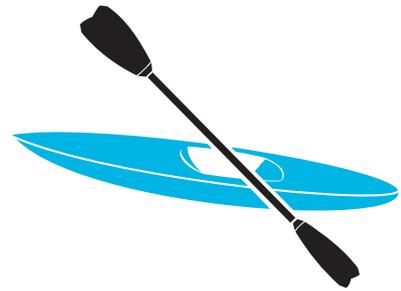


## STUDENT-LED EVENTS

The ISSO is happy to assist students and clubs with events that they suggest. Often these events are organized through the Intercultural Student Association, which ISSO sponsors.

Joining ISA gives you a voice in what events take place. Please keep in mind that successful events take time to plan, organize and promote. We recommend you contact ISSO at least 8-12 weeks in advance of the date on which you would like to host an event.

Like ISA on Facebook to see pictures and read details about ISSO events.



## QUARTERLY TRIPS

ISSO sponsors events and trips for Savannah and Atlanta international students each quarter. Some examples include kayaking outings, shopping trips, ice skating, movie nights, and weekends in Orlando, Florida; Asheville, North Carolina; and Ocoee, Tennessee.

Stay up to date on events and trips by reading the ISSO email newsletters and our Facebook page. Space on these trips often fills up quickly, so sign up early.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CLUBS

Want information on starting a new student club or to see what clubs are available to join this year? Check out the Inter-Club Council blog or send an email to [icc@scad.edu](mailto:icc@scad.edu).



## WORK AUTHORIZATION IN THE U.S.

SCAD is dedicated to helping students and alumni succeed in their chosen fields. The office for career and alumni success helps students find internships, provides job-search assistance and offers extensive resources to match students with their dream jobs. Learn more in MySCAD under the Department Directory channel.

### WORKING IN THE U.S.

Want to work on or off campus? ISSO team members can explain what types of employment you may accept and if work authorizations are required. Here are a few things that you will need to know about working in the U.S.

### ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

F-1 visa students are automatically authorized to engage in on-campus employment, though employment is not guaranteed to all interested students.

F-1 visa students may apply to work in any department or SCAD building for up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and up to 40 hours per week during break periods.

Learn more about working on campus in MySCAD under the Resources tab, Student Employment channel.



### NON-PAID WORK

You are allowed to volunteer your time and skills in any non-paid position as long as you do not volunteer for positions that are normally held by a paid worker. In other words, international students may not volunteer to do paid work for free.

Non-paid work does not require any work authorization for you as an international student. However, you must maintain full-time enrollment while participating in non-paid employment unless you are engaging in an internship that is considered Curricular Practical Training.

### OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

As an international student, you must obtain U.S. work authorization for any paid position not on the SCAD campus.

F-1 visa students are not eligible to apply for off-campus employment until they have been in F-1 status for at least three quarters of study and may not accept employment off campus without USCIS authorization. If you are an F-1 visa student and you are working off campus without USCIS authorization, you are working illegally.

Off-campus work authorization types for F-1 visa holders include: Curricular Practical Training, Pre-completion Optional Practical Training and Optional Practical Training.

Always consult with an ISSO adviser before accepting off-campus employment and visit the ISSO department page in MySCAD to learn more.

ISSO frequently hosts workshops on work authorization types for F-1 visa students. Look for these announcements in our ISSO email newsletter.

# WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

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As a SCAD international student, you've got a lot of responsibilities, but we've given you a comprehensive set of resources to manage them.

Refer to this book when you have questions and feel free to talk to your ISSO advisers about anything. Every faculty and staff member at SCAD is here to help you succeed.

Get involved.

Make new friends.

Try new things.

Explore your SCAD experience.

# QUICK CONTACT LIST

## **ISSO - Savannah**

Norris Hall  
548 E. Broughton St.  
Savannah, Georgia  
isso@scad.edu  
facebook.com/scadisso  
912.525.7301

## **ISSO - Atlanta**

1600 Peachtree St.  
Atlanta, Georgia  
issoatl@scad.edu  
facebook.com/scadissoatl  
404.253.3104

## **Registrar - Savannah**

Bradley Hall  
115 E. York St.  
registrar@scad.edu  
912.525.5800

## **Registrar - Atlanta**

Student Success Center  
Rooms 125 and 127  
1600 Peachtree St.  
registrar@scad.edu  
404.253.3425 or 404.253.3103

## **SCAD Department of Public Safety Savannah**

security@scad.edu  
912.525.4500

## **SCAD Department of Public Safety Atlanta**

security@scad.edu  
404.253.3333

## **SCAD Health Insurance Provider**

UnitedHealthcare Student Resources  
P.O. Box 809025  
Dallas, Texas 75380-9025 USA  
uhcsr.com/scad  
866.948.8472

## **Counseling and Student Support Services - Savannah**

Bradley Hall, Room 124  
counseling@scad.edu  
912.525.6971

## **Counseling and Student Support Services - Atlanta**

Student Success Center, first floor  
atlcounseling@scad.edu  
404.253.3400

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