

TIGER INTERNATIONAL

A monthly newsletter brought to you by International Student Services

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2023

From the Desk of the Director. Carol Solko-Olliff

Welcome back from Fall Break! We hope you had an enjoyable and restful time! Thank you as well to everyone who helped with or participated in International Education Week last month, it was a great success!

This is a very busy time of year with the semester coming to an end and preparations for the upcoming vacation time. It can also be a very stressful time with final exams and presentations, so please take care of yourself by enjoying some quiet time, talking to friends, listening to music, or participating in an activity you enjoy. ***Taking time for you is important in order to be successful academically and personally.***

If you are graduating in December and plan to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), please have all your paperwork turned into the International Office by **Monday, December 11**. Please let us know if you have any questions. **Remember**, you cannot start a job until you receive your EAD authorization card.

The University will close at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 22 and will reopen on Monday, January 1. If you need any help during the remainder of the winter vacation, you can come by the International Student Services Office during normal office hours starting January 2. If it is an emergency, call the international after hours cell phone, which is listed at the bottom of each newsletter page.

Good luck with your final exams and have a very **Happy Holiday Season!**

FINALS WEEK

Finals Feeding Frenzy: Enjoy all you can eat late night breakfast for FREE! On Sunday, Dec. 10 from 9:00m to 10:30pm in the McMIndes Hall Cafe. All students both on and off campus and with or without a meal plan are welcome to join.



Good luck during finals week! We realize that this time can be stressful but we have confidence that each of you will do well! Take advantage of the Writing Center located in Forsyth Library and the tutoring services offered in the Student Success & Retention Office located on the 1st floor of the Fischli-Wills building.

EXPIRING DOCUMENTS



Please check your documents to make sure they are not expired!

I-20 or DS-2019: If your document is expiring, notify the International Office (before it expires) so you can complete a program extension form. Please note that you will be out of status if this expires.

Passport: **This document must be valid at all times.** If it will be expiring, please check your country's US consular website on what to do. The passport can be renewed within the U.S.

Visa: If this has expired, you can legally be in the U.S. but once you leave, you will have to renew your visa before re-entering the U.S.

2023 FALL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY (Graduation)



Congratulations Fall 2023 Tiger graduates! Information along with times, dates, and locations of the fall ceremonies are now available at this web site <https://www.fhsu.edu/commencement/>. Graduating students will have the opportunity to take part in an in-person, traditional ceremony located in Gross Memorial Coliseum. There will be two ceremonies divided by colleges. Please review the web site for details.

CAMPUS OFFICE HOURS



During Winter Break, the International Student Services Office and all other offices on campus will be open regular hours Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm through Friday, December 22.

Campus and all offices will be CLOSED starting Monday, December 25 will re-open Tuesday, January 2 regular hours.

CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE IN WORKDAY

All international students are required to provide a current mailing address and phone number. It is important that your information stay current at all times as USCIS (U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) requires our office to maintain student records in SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System).



Take a moment to make sure your current mailing address and phone number are updated:

1. Login to Workday
2. Select your picture or the round circle in the top right corner.
3. Select the "view profile" button. This will bring you to a page with a blue navigation bar on the left.
4. Select the "Contact" in the blue navigation bar.
5. Click the "Edit" drop-down box and select "Change Contact Information".
6. Add an address by selecting the pencil icon at the right of the box; do not change or delete your permanent address from this space. When finished, select the check mark in the right corner of the address box.
7. Select the yellow "Submit" button in the bottom left corner.

SPRING 2024 CLASSES



If you have not already selected your classes for Spring 2024, please do so now. Login to **Workday** and click on the myFHSU icon. Register for spring classes using your academic plan. For more information on how to register, please view this website: www.fhsu.edu/workday/student-registration. For further assistance, contact your academic advisor.

Registration has already started. If you have any questions about when you can enroll or who your academic advisor is, please do not hesitate to contact the International Student Services Office. As a reminder, you can only enroll in one (1) three hour virtual college course to count toward your full-time enrollment.

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PAST AT HISTORIC FORT HAYS: December 1 and 2 from 7pm to 9pm

Experience the enchantment of an 1870s Christmas at the Fort Hays Historic Site located at 1472 Hwy 183 Alt. Enjoy carolers, cookies, Father Christmas, wagon rides, hot apple cider, and fried apples by the campfire! Free for all!



WINTER ART WALK: December 2 from 10am to 4pm

Enjoy a Saturday on the Bricks of Downtown Hays where dozens of shops & galleries showcase art exhibits, opening reception, and a mix of free entertainment. Free for all!

FROSTFEST ILLUMINATED PARADE: December 10 at 6:00pm

Bundle up in your warmest clothing and enjoy the Frostfest parade which takes place downtown on Main Street. You can even stop at the Hays Public Library at 5:30 pm for hot chocolate! This parade is unique as it is holiday-themed and lit up with lights! You won't want to miss it! Free for all!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER: December 25 from 11am to 1pm

All are welcome! No reservations needed for this sit-down event at the VFW Hall 2106 Vine St. Free for all!

KEEPING CHRISTMAS: December 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10; showtimes 7-9pm on Saturdays and 3-5pm on Sundays

Join the Hays Community Theatre for a trip through the generations as they explore a Traditional Christmas Tale. Plenty of laughs and Christmas carols will get you in the holiday spirit! Tickets are \$10.00 per person.

IMPORTANT WINTER BREAK INFORMATION

Winter Break at FHSU is right around the corner. For those of you new to FHSU this semester, winter break is a period of about a month when classes are not in session. Many students chose to travel during this break time. If you are planning on staying in Hays, see below for information. This newsletter also has information about Tiger Transport and on-campus food service over break.

Forsyth Building Hours/ Ask A Librarian Research Help: <https://www.fhsu.edu/library/>

ON-CAMPUS FOOD SERVICE—*subject to change*

	12/15	12/16 to 12/17	12/18 to 12/22	12/23 to 1/1	1/2 to 1/5	1/6 to 1/7	1/8 to 1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16
McMindes Cafe	Closes after lunch	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open for dinner	Resume normal hours	Resume normal hours
Hoagies	11am to 8pm	Closed	11am to 2pm	Closed	11am to 2pm	Closed	11am to 2pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Resume normal hours
Starbucks & The Student Stash	7am to 8pm	Closed	7am to 5pm	Closed	7am to 5pm	Closed	7am to 5pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Resume normal hours

Please make sure that if you want to eat out during the winter break to call the restaurant first to make sure they are open. Their hours may be different or they maybe closed, especially on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

TIGER TRANSPORT

Tiger Transport **will** be running its regular schedule during Winter Break. Please check out the website for details: <https://fhsu.edu/international/tiger-transport/index>. Tiger Transport **will not** run on December 24, December 25, or January 1, as these dates are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

TRAVEL

Please make sure that if you want to eat out during the winter break to call the restaurant first to make sure they are open. Their hours may be different or they maybe closed, especially on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Take special care if you are traveling during the holiday. Road conditions can change quickly and become quite dangerous. With the added holiday traffic, please pay attention to your surroundings and drive carefully. Pack warm clothing, some snack food, a blanket, flashlight, and water. If you have a cellphone take that and any emergency numbers you might need as well. It is also a good idea to let your friends or the International Office know where and when you plan to travel in case you run into problems. We all want to make sure you are safe during the break. Try your best to check the weather reports before you leave. You can access weather information at weather.com. **For students who intend to travel outside the U.S. during the holidays, make sure you have the following before you leave:**

1. Current Passport and Visa
2. Signed I-20 or DS-2019
3. Any documents to obtain a new visa, (if needed)

Check any COVID-19 protocols for traveling by air and country you will travel to. Please plan to arrive at the airport approximately 3 hours before any international flight you are taking. Be sure to review travel restrictions and guidelines for your destination with TSA.

Stop by the International Office on **Tuesday, December 5 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm** or **Wednesday, December 6 from 10:30am-12:00pm** to get your I-20 or DS-2019 signed by Carol or Angie. This is dedicated time to get signatures and ask immigration questions.

Can't make this event? No worries! You can drop off your document any time BEFORE Dec. 15 and come back the next day to pick it up. DO NOT wait until the day before, you might not get a signature! PLAN AHEAD.