

## **MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER**

<http://www.ncat.edu/~multicultural>

The Multicultural Student Center is an integral part of the University and the Division of Student Affairs. Located in 213 of Murphy Hall, the Office provides programs and services that support the academic mission of the University by enhancing the educational, personal, cultural and social development of our diverse student population, including: African, Asian and Native American; Caucasian; Hispanic/Latino; International; Veteran; Non-Traditional; Students w/Disabilities; Visiting Scholars; and Others. North Carolina A&T State University is committed to the enrollment and retention of minority students. The Multicultural Student Center seeks to create an awareness of and appreciation for ethnic and cultural diversity by promoting culturally diverse activities. Programs and services are available to all students addressing academic, cultural and personal needs to ensure that each student in the A&T community receives the best education possible. Volunteer service opportunities exist through the Multicultural Student Center's Advisory Committee, Newsletter Editorial Board and various other committees.

Supporting the Multicultural Student Center is one way in which the University has dedicated itself to building bridges of knowledge, cooperation and understanding between persons of differing ethnic and social backgrounds. Students are encouraged to affiliate with the many student organizations on campus as well. Efforts to serve our students are designed to increase the retention and graduation of students through activities, newsletters, workshops, mentoring programs, surveys, counseling, and a variety of program outreach services that focus on personal development and campus involvement. The Multicultural Student Center offers leadership opportunities, social and service activities, often in cooperation with other campus organizations. The Center is open from 8am – 5pm daily and is staffed by the Director and Assistant.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OFFICE (ISSO)**

<http://www.ncat.edu~isso>

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) provides services and programs for international (foreign-born) students and scholars. The office staff provides assistance with pre-arrival preparation, arrival/adjustment assistance, the admission process, housing, insurance, and immigration matters. Orientation and advisement are provided to assist students with their adjustment to the University and community. In cooperation with various departments and organizations, including the International Student Association (ISA), the office provides activities that enhance cultural, social and personal development. The ISA is open to all international students and scholars with an interest in the goals of the organization. Registration with the Office of International Students and Scholars Office is required.

Students and scholars are encouraged to promote multicultural understanding by participating in a variety of activities in the Greensboro community.

Approximately one hundred fifty international students attend the University and they represent over 50 countries in the following regions: Africa, Asia, Caribbean/West Indies, Central America, Europe, Middle East, North America, and South America.

All international (foreign-born) students are required to verify the immigration/residency status to the International Students and Scholars Office before registering at the University and notify the Office immediately of any change in their immigration status and address.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant students. All F-1 non-immigrants are required to obtain an I-20 [Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student Status for Academic and Language Students] from this institution prior to enrollment. (I-20's issued by another institution are not valid for attendance at A&T). The requirements for an I-20 include acceptance to the University, a TOEFL score of 550 or above; a financial guarantee (letter of support, bank statement and verification of salary from sponsor's employer); and a partial deposit for the first year's tuition and fees. Proof of valid

immigration status is required if the applicant is currently residing in the United States. Individuals seeking J-1 status should contact the ISSO Director for current immigration regulations and University procedures. Possession of a social security card does not necessarily mean a student is eligible to work off-campus.

Immigrants must provide the International Students and Scholars Office with a copy of the Permanent Resident Card. U.S. Naturalized Citizens should submit the Naturalization Certificate and/or a copy of the U.S. Passport. All other applicants should provide the documents necessary to verify current immigration status. Information received helps the Office with statistical reports on the international student population, maintaining a cultural resource base and international student advising.

All non-immigrants are required to attend the International Student Orientation held during the registration period. The immigration law requires F-1 non-immigrants to complete their registration with the International Students and Scholars Office within 15 days after classes begin.

All non-immigrants are responsible for maintaining legal immigration status. Non-immigrant students in F-1 visa status are required by USCIS regulations to enroll full-time, except for the summer terms. Full-time enrollment is defined as enrollment every semester in a minimum of 12 credit hours. F-1 non-immigrants are not eligible to work off-campus without approval from the USCIS. F-2 and H-4 non-immigrants are not eligible to work.

The legal regulations governing non-immigrant students are complex. The Director of the International Students and Scholars Office is available to explain these regulations in detail and strongly urge non-immigrants to seek advice about their legal immigration status.

It is **mandatory** for F and J students to purchase and maintain the University's comprehensive health and accident insurance coverage which includes repatriation and medical evacuation. This policy also has specific levels of coverage to ensure that it adequately meets requirements to provide for medical costs in the U.S. The ISSO automatically authorizes the Treasurer's Office to bill for the cost of University insurance for non-immigrant students (new and continuing) at the beginning of each semester. Non-immigrant students and Exchange Visitors are also responsible to purchase and maintain similar coverage for each dependent present with them inside the U.S. Government sponsored students should discuss the insurance issue with an ISSO advisor. The advisor will make the final decision regarding the policy provided by the government and determine if it is acceptable. Exchange Visitors in professor, researcher, scholar, etc. categories must purchase and maintain coverage requirements for insurance set forth by the Department of State. Exchange Visitor dependent coverage is also required.

F and J visa holders are considered as non-residents and are assessed non-resident (out-of-state) tuition and fees.

The office is located in Murphy Hall, Room 221, at the corner of Nocho Street and S.G. Thomas Drive. The telephone number is (336) 334-7551; the fax number is (336) 334-7001. The ISSO is staffed with Director, a SEVIS compliance officer and an administrative secretary/receptionist. Admissions Application packets for international students are available in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and on line at [www.ncat.edu](http://www.ncat.edu).