



Season's Greetings Global Vandals!

As we bid farewell to 2023, we're excited to bring you the December edition of our newsletter, packed with updates, achievements and glimpses into the moments that made this year special. This year has been a journey of growth and collaboration, and we can't wait to share the highlights with you. As we embrace the festive season, let's take a moment to appreciate the connections we've forged and the goals we've achieved together. Join us in celebrating accomplishments and the spirit of unity and resilience that propels us forward. Looking ahead, the new year holds the promise of fresh opportunities and challenges, and we're eager to embark on this journey with you. Our collective efforts and passion pave the way for a future filled with innovation, creativity and positive impact.

From all of us to all of you, thank you for being an essential part of our community. Wishing you joy, peace and a wonderful holiday season. Here's to a brilliant new year ahead!

Regards,

Roshni

Global Vandal Spotlight

This month, we would like to shine the spotlight on our Global Vandal, Sayana Basnet! Sayana is a freshman majoring in Psychology. She serves as the Public Relations Officer for the International Students Organization, a club dedicated to build community among our Global Vandals. She has a passion for exploring the art of storytelling and fostering community connections, has experience hosting a radio show in the National FM station of Nepal and has taken many big leaps to step out of her comfort zone within the last year.



In fact, Sayana is currently directing her first theatre performance called, "Larry Gets the Call" as part of the 10-minute play festival at the university. This show is set to be played **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12 at The Forge Theatre**. As Global Vandal community, let's show our support for each other and see Sayana's hard work! Sayana is an excellent role model for other new Global Vandals, and we hope that her story is an encouragement for you to step out of your comfort zone, take risks and make the most of your experience!

If you would like to be featured in the next newsletter, please email ipo-events@uidaho.edu

Program Extensions – Check Your I-20/DS-2019

If your I-20/DS-2019 will expire on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 and you need more time to complete your program of study, you must complete the [I-20 Extension Request Form](#) in iVandal **before** your current I-20/DS-2019 expires. **We are unable to extend I-20/DS-2019s after the end date has passed.**

If you are completing your program of study, you need to file for graduation. You can find more information on the Registrar Office website ([Graduation Deadlines and Checklists | University of Idaho \(uidaho.edu\)](#)).

As an F-1/J-1 student, you have several options following your final term.

Grace Period:

- F-1 students have a **60-day grace period** following the last day of your final semester of enrollment.
- J-1 students have a **30-day grace period** following the last day of your final semester of enrollment.

Use your grace period to do one of the following:

- Apply for [post-completion employment authorization \(OPT\)](#) or Academic Training (AT)
 - [Transfer your SEVIS record](#) to another school in the U.S. or a change of educational level at the U of I
 - Change to **another visa status**
 - Prepare to depart the U.S.
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Travel Signatures



When traveling internationally F-1/J-1 students and their dependents must have a travel signature from an International Student Advisor on their valid I-20/DS-2019 before departure. Travel signatures are valid for 1 year for enrolled students in J-1 or F-1 visa status and 6 months for F-1 students authorized for OPT. Please submit your Travel Signature Requests in [iVandal](#) at least two weeks before your departure date, we will email you when your request has been processed.

Employment

F-1 students may work on campus for up to 20 hours per week total during the academic calendar and full-time during the academic breaks. J-1 students may also work on campus up to 20 hours per week and full-time during the academic breaks but must report their employment to their International Student Advisor before employment begins.

Do not engage in any off-campus employment unless you have received prior authorization from International Services. More information about employment can be found on the [IPO website](#) or contact ipo@uidaho.edu.

Winter Break Office Hours

The International Programs Office is open Monday-Friday during the break during our normal business hours, however we will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 22, 25, 29 and Jan. 1. An International Services advisor will be happy to answer your questions from 2-4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the International Programs Office, no appointment needed. If you have many questions that will take longer than 15 minutes to discuss or wish to meet virtually via Zoom, please schedule an appointment in advance using [Vandal Star](#).

Sign-ups For Cruise the World Are Now Open!



Cruise the World 2024

- **When:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, 2024
- **Where:** Bruce M. Pitman Center (709 Deakin Avenue, Moscow, ID)

[Cruise the World](#) is one of the annual signature events organized by the International Programs Office to celebrate cultural diversity in the Moscow community.

Each year, the International Ballroom and Vandal Ballroom is transformed into a global village welcoming 2,000 attendees with an array of food booths, performances and activities inviting community members to engage across cultures from over 20 countries! Attendees can travel the world right outside their doorstep by tasting delicious foods and drinks from other countries, and watch cultural performances including song, dance, martial arts and more. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved to share the beauty of your home country.

If you are interested in showcasing your home country by hosting a booth, performing on stage or volunteering, please sign up here:

https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7PtalXaM1bQHmtw

BOOTHS

Many booths sell food to the public and 85% of profits go to your designated student club or club member (if they are a US citizen or permanent resident for legal reasons). The remaining profit will go to cover overhead costs to run the event each year. If you'd like to sell food, food ingredients must be ordered through Dining Services, and then prepared in a University of Idaho kitchen. The International Programs Office will help guide you through this process. If you are interested in hosting a booth **without** food, this is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce your country and culture to community members. *International booths can sell food, calligraphy, henna, traditional jewelry and more!* Use the link above to sign up.

PERFORMANCES

We are looking to showcase an array of performances (from song, dance, martial arts, poetry, spoken word, film/video content on one's international experience and more!)

VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to participate, but don't want to host a booth or perform? You can volunteer! We always need volunteers to set up booths, pass out flyers, greet people at the door, photograph/film the event, emcee and more!

The deadline to sign up is Dec. 10, 2023. We will give those who fully complete this form first the preference to choose when they would like to cook and where/when they would like to perform.

November Highlights: International Education Week!



With your help, International Education Week was such a joy with you all! Thank you all for sharing and allowing us to come together and celebrate global education. We are so honored to be a part of this wonderful community!



Other Upcoming Events

- [Christmas Party](#) from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the IPO Event Center.
- [Fall 2023 Graduation Party](#) from 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the IPO Event Center.
- [English Conversation Hour](#) (last of the semester) from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 at the IPO Event Center.
- [Winter Driving Safety](#) from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12 online.
- Food for Finals throughout Dec. 11-15 at The Center (822 Elm St, Moscow, Idaho).

Please visit our [Events Calendar](#) for more information on upcoming events.



We hope that over the break you will be able to rest, reconnect with your friends and family and enjoy these weeks off from school. We wish you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

The IPO Team

Connect with us!



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