

# Welcome to Tax Filing Information for International Students and Scholars



Presented by  
Office of International Student & Scholar Services  
Florida Institute of Technology

# DISCLAIMER

- ISSS staff are not licensed nor qualified to provide personalized tax advice. The following information has been prepared to help Florida Tech's F, J, & M visa holders and their dependents to understand tax obligations and to answer some of the most common questions internationals have about taxation in the US.

# Recommended Reading & Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Individual Tax Forms

## Federal Income Tax Information

- \*IRS Form 1040NR-EZ (short-form): <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nre.pdf>
- \*1040NR-EZ INSTRUCTIONS: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nre.pdf>
- \*IRS FORM 1040NR (long-form): <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nr.pdf>
- \*1040NR INSTRUCTIONS: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nr.pdf>
- \*IRS form 8843: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

**\*SAVE YOURSELF TIME, MONEY, & FRUSTRATION –  
USE THE CINTAX PROGRAM**

# TAX SEASON IS HERE

- ISSS has again purchased a license to provide you with access to CINTAX; a web-based tax return preparation system available to FIT students & scholars for federal tax returns.



- The advantage to using CINTAX: available to you at no charge! (**FREE**)
- The average cost of having a tax company prepare your taxes - \$100+



# WHAT IS CINTAX?



- CINTAX is an on-line software program designed exclusively for used by foreign students, scholars, teachers, researchers, and their dependents who are non-resident aliens
- CINTAX supports Windows 2000/XP or MAC OSX. CINTAX does not support internet explorer on a MAC.
- CINTAX will not prepare returns for residents, nor will it prepare state income tax returns (note: FL does not have a state income tax)

# CINTAX WILL



- Calculate the substantial presence test to determine the foreign nationals US residency status;
  - Verify each type of payment for any applicable tax-treaty exemptions;
  - Check if the individual is eligible for “away-from-home” expenses (if he or she has been in the US for less than 12 months);
  - Complete the correct US income tax form
  - Prepare any additional statements or attachments; and
  - Print the tax return and all attachments;
  - Provide detailed instructions about how, when, and where to submit the tax return, as well as information about the documents necessary to attach and complete the tax returning filing process.
- **The DEADLINE for submitting your tax returns is April 18, 2011.\***
  - \*If you have no income and are only submitting form 8843, the deadline is June 15.

CINTAX is written in easy-to-understand language. You should only need to spend about 30 minutes on the program. However, **it is important that you are prepared and have all the required documentation gathered before you begin.**

# CINTAX WON'T



- File your taxes for you.
- After completing the CINTAX program you MUST:
  - Print forms
  - Sign forms
  - Make a copy of them
  - Mail them

# Who is Eligible to use CINTAX?

- All students in active F-1 status, including
  - those on OPT
  - those who graduated in 2010
- active H1-B visa holders
- active J-1 visa holders
- active M-1 visa holders
- dependents of F-1; J-1; M-1 visa holders



# 2010 Tax Year Preparation

- If you had income in 2010, you are obligated to file a Federal Income Tax Return
- **ALL** internationals & their dependents are required by law to file IRS Form 8843.
- The CINTAX program will help you determine your *tax* status. If you are determined to be a resident for tax purposes, then you will not be able to use the CINTAX program.

# Non-Resident Alien VS Resident Alien

- CINTAX will help determine your tax residency, but here is some quick information:
- Most international students present in the United States for less than 5 years are considered Non-Resident Aliens for tax purposes
- “J” visa holders (researchers & professors) present in the US for more than 2 years are usually considered a Resident Alien for tax purposes
- If a student is in the US for more than 5 years; they are usually considered a Resident Alien for tax purposes

# DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- I-20 (if in “F” or “M” visa status)
- DS-2019 (if in “J” visa status)
- Passport
- Forms W-2, 1042-S, and or 1099 (if you received any)
- Scholarship/Fellowship grant letter (if any)
- Social Security or ITIN # (if you have one)
- Address Information (both US and foreign)
- US Entry & Exit dates for current and past visits to the United States
- Copy of your 2009 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ (if filed)
- Academic Institution or Host Sponsor Information

# TIME NEEDED AND SECURITY

- Set aside approximately 30 minutes to complete the entire process (this time is based on having all your documents ready)
- All information entered into CINTAX is encrypted and secured via SSL technology
- CINTAX does not use your e-mail address for any other reason than to contact you if they find an error has occurred or they need to reach in with concerns on your tax return
- CINTAX pledges that all information is secure and will not be distributed or used by anyone other than CINTAX in connection with the use of CINTAX
- Keep your Password and UserID in a safe place (you might need it later on should you need to re-enter CINTAX at a later time or if the internet connection fails during the process)

# REMINDERS

- CINTAX only generates a US Federal Tax Return and any accompanying statements
- When finished with CINTAX, remember to print out your final documents, sign, copy, mail
- **DEADLINE:** April 18, 2011



# PROBLEMS

- E-mail the CINTAX Support Center

[support@cintax.us](mailto:support@cintax.us)

(Do not contact the ISSS Office; we will only direct you to the link above)

# LET'S BEGIN

- <http://www.fit.edu/iss/>
- Click on CURRENT STUDENT tab
- Click on TAXES (left hand side)
- Click on CINTAX (right hand side)