U.S. TAX FILING RESPONSIBILITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

Becky Crabtree

International Student & Scholar Services

To Start...

ALL INT'L STUDENTS MUST REPORT "SOMETHING" TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

Same as U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents. U.S. tax reporting is a personal responsibility for anyone living and working in the U.S..

WE CANNOT PROVIDE TAX ADVICE, JUST INFORMATION

- That's why we have partnered with Sprintax an online tax software for students filing as nonresidents for tax purposes
- ISSS has pre-paid the cost of filing a nonresident federal tax return
 - GE's also have the state tax return paid for



BEFORE WE START...SOME TERMINOLOGY YOU WILL LEARN TODAY

- U.S. source income
- Federal and state tax return
- Form 8843
- Substantial presence test
- Nonresident for tax purposes (or nonresident tax filer)
- Resident for tax purposes (or resident tax filer)
- Taxable scholarship or fellowship



SO... THERE ARE 3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT U.S. TAX REPORTING:

- All intl students and scholars present in the U.S. for any part of 2023 must file Form 8843
- 2. And, if you received **U.S. source income**, you must file a Federal and State tax return
- 3. What happens if you don't file?
 - I don't know, but is it worth the risk?
 - 2. You may encounter complications when applying for U.S. visas or permanent residency in the future

Quick Summary of IRS reporting requirements





WHAT IS Form 8843?

- Not an income tax return. Form 8843 is informational statement of presence in the U.S. required by the IRS for <u>nonresident</u> tax filers. It should be filled out for every nonresident present in the U.S. for the previous year, including spouses, partners, and children.
 - If you are a **resident for tax purposes**, you are **not required** to file Form 8843.
- **Remember...** with or without U.S. source income, you are required to file Form 8843.

WHAT IS U.S. SOURCE INCOME?

U.S. source income means you received wages, salary, awards, prizes, or **taxable** scholarships or fellowships from a U.S. institution, organization, or company.

"**Taxable**" refers to the amount of scholarship or fellowship that **exceeds** the amount of tuition

Examples of U.S. source income

- On-campus employment
- Graduate Employees
- CPT employment
- OPT employment
- Research or internship stipend
- Honorarium

Note: Financial support from outside the U.S. is not considered U.S. source income.

Now let's look at tax-related documents...





Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		AMENDED			PRO-RATA BASI	
1 Income code	2 Gross income	3 Chapter indicator. Enter "3" or "4"				13e Recipient's U.S. TIN,
		3a Exemption code		4a Exemption code		
		3b Tax rate		4b Tax rate		13f Ch. 3 status code
5 Withholding allowance					13h Recipient's GIIN	
6 Net income			Whether is the set descented with			1

MOST COMMON NONRESIDENT TAX-RELATED FORMS

W-2 - issued by the end of January for wages earned For on-campus jobs or paid research, the W-2 is in Duckweb under Employee For CPT/OPT employment, the W-2 sent by employer **1042-S** – Business Affairs will mail by March 15th for: income exempt from tax withholding under a tax treaty, a taxable fellowship/scholarship or grant, or a non-employee service payment. **1099** - issued for miscellaneous income 1098-T (resident tax filers only)

New term DETERMINING TAX FILING STATUS: **NONRESIDENT** OR **RESIDENT** FOR TAX PURPOSES



- Sprintax will ask you a series of questions based on the "substantial presence test"
- The substantial presence test is a calculation that determines the resident or nonresident status of a foreign national for tax purposes in the U.S. The substantial presence test must be applied on a yearly basis (Form 8843).
- If it is determined you are a **nonresident** for tax purposes, you can file with Sprintax
- If it is determined you are a **resident** for tax purposes, you **cannot** file with Sprintax
 - Instead use TurboTax, H&R Block, Tax Slayer, TaxAct... or a professional tax preparer
 - VITA tax assistance program at UO: http://www.uobap.com/vita

WHY DOES IT MATTER WHAT MY TAX FILING STATUS IS?

Residents and nonresidents for tax purposes are taxed differently!

If you are a **nonresident for tax purposes,** with U.S. source income, you must file a federal tax return and report all of your **U.S. source income** (refer back to what U.S. source income is).

If you're a resident for tax purposes, you must report your **worldwide income** from all sources, that is, **income from both within and outside the U.S**.

Refer to IRS website for more information: <u>https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc851</u>

QUICK CHECK ON TERMINOLOGY

- "Resident" and "Nonresident" for tax purposes does NOT refer to:
- immigration status,
- tuition rate, or
- U.S. permanent resident status
- That is why we use the phrase "nonresident for tax purposes" or "nonresident tax filer" to be clear that we are only talking about U.S. <u>tax status</u>
- Remember, Sprintax will help you determine your tax status at the very beginning of the process!

DO I NEED A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO FILE A TAX RETURN?

Int'l Students:

- If you have no U.S. source income, you are not eligible for a SSN.
 - In this case, you only file Form 8843
- If you have U.S. source income you either need an SSN or an ITIN to file your tax return.
 - SSN = employment
 - ITIN = no employment but have a scholarship, fellowship or award

Int'l Scholars:

• You are eligible for a SSN without having a job



WHAT IS AN ITIN?

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is issued by Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Federal tax reporting number for those who are not eligible for a social security number

Follow the instructions in the link below to request an ITIN. ISSS will file on your behalf.

IRS processing can be several weeks or months.

https://isss.uoregon.edu/individual-taxpayeridentification-number-itin

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO FILE?

- Sprintax's nonresident software will guide you through the tax filing process step-by-step.
- Sprintax will prepare the federal and state tax returns (and Form 8843) based on your tax-related documents and provide you with instructions on where to mail the returns.
- If you only need to file Form 8843, you can do this on your own or use Sprintax. <u>https://blog.sprintax.com/tax-form-8843-filing-instructions/</u>



CAN I FILE ON MY OWN?



Sure, but why would you?

- ISSS has already **paid** for you to file the federal tax return
- And Sprintax provides:
 - Step-by-step guide to filing federal & state returns
 - Free filing of Form 8843
 - 100% tax compliance guaranteed
 - Every tax deduction and treaty benefit applied

Again, residents for tax purposes cannot use Sprintax to file their tax returns and they do not file Form 8843.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Go to <u>https://isss.uoregon.edu/node/340</u>
- Follow steps to gather all tax-related documents and create a Sprintax account.
- The unique discount code (UOR750F23) to cover the cost of filing the Federal tax return is also embedded in the <u>Sprintax account link</u> on our website.

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File your US nonresident tax return

TAX FILING SUPPORT

- Go to the ISSS Tax Filing Support website below and scroll to the bottom of the page for support and additional resources:
- https://isss.uoregon.edu/node/340



