

## **International Spouse/Partner Tip Sheet**

### ***Spouse/Domestic Partner Card***

If you would like a spouse card/domestic partner card for your husband, wife, or domestic partner, go to the Student Development office on the third floor of the Student Center and tell them that you are interested in obtaining a card for your spouse or partner. A Student Development staff member will check the SIUC computer system to insure that you are an enrolled student and that you are listed as “married” in the system if you are applying for a spouse card. If you are applying for a domestic partner card, you will be asked a series of simple questions you must complete a Statement of Domestic Partnership Form. If they determine that your spouse or partner is eligible for a card, one will be issued to him/her. The Student Development Office will give you a brochure that tells about the benefits to which your spouse/domestic partner is entitled. These benefits include:

- A Morris Library loan courtesy card for a minimal fee.
- Shryock Auditorium “rush tickets” are available for certain performances 30 minutes prior to a show for a reduced rate. For more information, call 453-6000 or look on their website at [www.southernlightsentertainment.com](http://www.southernlightsentertainment.com)
- McLeod Theater Productions—You can purchase an additional ticket for your spouse/domestic partner at your lower student rate. For information, call 453-3001.
- A Recreation Center Guest Pass is available for a small fee (\$5 for spouse/partner, \$3 per child) if the guest(s) is accompanied by the student.
- A Saluki Express bus pass for unlimited rides can be purchased for your spouse and children by paying a \$40 per semester fee at the ticket office on the second floor of the Student Center where the bus pass will then be issued. Children under the age of five ride free when accompanied by an adult. SIUC students ride free with a valid SIUC student ID. For additional information call 453-5749.

*Please note that all of these policies are subject to change.*

### ***Medical Insurance***

**IMPORTANT!!** All international student spouses and children are required to have medical insurance. International Students and Scholars (ISS) can provide you with information about health insurance that is available for you to purchase for your spouse and low cost insurance that is available through the state of Illinois for your children. As a student, you are covered under the student fees that you pay along with your tuition. Please ask to see Michelle or Elaine at the ISS office (Northwest Annex, Wing B) for forms and additional information.

### ***International Friends Club Programs***

We have a variety of FREE programs available through the International Friends Club (IFC) for you, your spouse, and family. The IFC is a large group of American campus and community volunteers interested in assisting and interacting with international students and their families. For more information about the following programs, or if you have any questions, please contact Elaine at [econrad@siu.edu](mailto:econrad@siu.edu) or call 453-5774.

- Host Family—American families invite international students and their families to their homes for monthly social activities and cultural exchange.
- English in Action—International students and spouses practice their English conversation skills every week with American partners.
- International Women’s Friendship Group—International women enjoy weekly activities planned by American women. Free transportation and child care are provided if needed.
- International Women’s Support Group—International women and a volunteer coordinator plan educational activities together. This is primarily a discussion group open to international students and spouses.
- Mother Care—Friendship teams of several women are created to offer support and encouragement to pregnant international wives and students.
- Loan Closet—Household items and winter coats are available for SIUC international students and their spouses to borrow. We have a small selection of children’s coats. We do not carry any kind of electrical appliances or furniture items.