

Tax information for international students

As an International Student or Scholar in the US, it's very important that you comply with US tax law and understand the tax filing requirements of your visa. All non-immigrants in the US who were present at some time during 2017 are required to file tax related documents (often called a "tax return") - even if they did not earn any taxable income.

In 2018, your taxes MUST be in the mail by [April 17](#) to avoid any possible late fee from the IRS.

Income is taxed by the Federal, State, and local governments. Some wages are also taxed for Social Security and Medicare benefits - though a non-resident taxpayer may be exempt from these.

Don't forget that if any of the following circumstances apply to you, you **must** file a US tax return:

- You worked in the US in 2017
- You received a stipend, grant or allowance in the past year
- You had no earnings - even if you did not work or receive income in the US you're still legally obliged file a tax return to declare no earnings. In this situation you will file a form 8843.

We have made things as easy for you as possible. There are three ways you can get help with filing your taxes.

1. Go to one of the open sessions hosted by the College of Business Administration.

- UA's College of Business Administration will host open tax sessions for ALL students (not just international students).
- Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm in CBA 106
- Sessions start on Saturday January 27 and the last one is on April 14. There will be no session on March 31 as that is Spring Break.
- No appointments required.
- If the CBA completes a W7 for you as part of your tax return and you do not have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) bring your documents and your tax return to the International Center ASAP so we can produce the necessary certification letter that you need to include with your tax return. Do this asap, as it will take us time to produce the letter and your tax return MUST be in the mail before April 17.

You can go to any of these sessions, but you must be sure to identify as international so you can be sure you meet with the right advisors.

2. Go to one of the CBA's sessions for students who didn't have income last year.

- CBA will offer two separate sessions only for International students who didn't have income last year and need to file a form 8843.
- These sessions are scheduled as follows:
Bierce 154 on Thursday Feb 22 from 6 - 8 pm and THURSDAY MARCH 15 from 11 am. - 1 pm. (please note the date change)
- If the CBA completes a W7 for you as part of your tax return and you do not have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) bring your documents and your tax return to the International Center ASAP so we can produce the necessary certification letter that you need to include with your tax return. Do this asap, as it will take us time to produce the letter and your tax return MUST be in the mail before April 17.

** You can go to the other CBA sessions if you wish but these two sessions are dedicated to students who did not have income and need to file form 8843. If you have a W2 and/or a 1042S/1099 you should go to the other sessions, or file using the software (details below)*

3. File your taxes using online software:

We have partnered with two online tax services (Sprintax and Glacier) to offer specialized assistance to international students/scholars only.

Sprintax: <link <https://sprintax.com/university-of-akron>>

Software is available to help you with your federal and state taxes.

The usual cost is \$35.95 for federal and \$25.95 for state, but we can offer a \$5 discount on your federal tax return and a \$3 discount on your state return. You will need to enter the special University of Akron code to obtain the discount. The codes are only for UA students and scholars and will be sent to your UAkron email account.

Glacier: <Link http://www.arcticintl.com/gtp_usage.asp>

Software is available to help you with your federal taxes only.

The cost is \$39.

**You will need to remember to print out your return and mail it in. It does not submit automatically from the software.*

**If you need to file as a "resident for tax purposes" you cannot use this software and will need to go to either CBA or use software (such as TurboTax) that US students use. In general, an international student/scholar is considered "resident for tax purposes" if they have lived in the US for 5 years or more. If you're not sure, go to the CBA on one of the Saturdays listed above.*

No matter how you decide to file your taxes you will need to bring the following documents:

- Passport

- I-94 entry/exit history (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home> click on "view travel history") CBA will calculate the substantial presence test for you if you go to those sessions, but you will need your travel history for the online software, to determine whether you are considered a "resident for tax purposes".
- All tax forms received – W2, 1042S and/or 1099, and any others, such as investment summaries.
- SSN/ITIN (If you work, you should have a social security number (SSN) already. If not you'll need an ITIN. If you complete a W7 for you as part of your tax return and you do not have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) bring your documents and your tax return to the International Center ASAP so we can produce the necessary certification letter that you need to include with your tax return. Do this asap, as it will take us time to produce the letter and your tax return MUST be in the mail before April 17.
- Bank account info (or mailing address) for refunds
- Any past returns, for reference