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Quinnipiac international students face uncertain future amid new proposed regulations

By AVA HIGHLAND
Managing Editor

Over the past several months, international students have faced uncertainty and challenges after new regulations regarding internships and a ruling on duration of status was set to take effect Sept. 15.

With so much being unknown and unexpected, Quinnipiac University’s Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is working to navigate these changes and assist students.

“(We) are here to first and foremost help them understand and navigate the changes as they’re happening rapidly and can be sometimes difficult to keep up with everything that’s going on and what applies to them,” Director of International Students and Scholars Sarah Driscoll said.

Here’s what’s changed and what could change:

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING

For many programs at Quinnipiac, students are required to complete an internship to graduate. Even for the programs that don’t, many students still seek out and complete internships for more experience and preparation for their career. However, the latter option is no longer easily accessible for international students.

Up until recently, F-1 international students could get Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization for off-campus work experience tied to an elective course credit or practicum, aside from an experience for a graduation requirement. Either way, CPT can only be authorized if the experience is directly connected to the student’s major.

This is no longer the case.

Colleges and universities across the nation received an email Aug. 12 from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) — a program under the Department of Homeland Security — regarding observations of CPT authorizations.

Columbia University shared this email in an announcement on the Office of Public Affairs’ website.

“SEVP has observed a rise in CPT authorizations that do not meet regulatory requirements, specifically those not constituting an integral part of an established curriculum,” SEVP wrote to schools. “As a result, the program is increasing its scrutiny of CPT approvals to ensure compliance with federal regulations.”

Not long after, SEVP shared email guidance Aug. 24, including official changes to CPT authorization.

This updated guidance says that “a foreign student may be authorized by a DSO to participate in a CPT program that is an integral part of an established curriculum,” according to the Aug. 24 email.

These changes have affected schools across the country — along with Quinnipiac and Columbia — including Harvard University, the University of Connecticut, Yale University, the University of Rochester and more.

“This new interpretation and the stricter guideline has stated that CPT can only be used and authorized if all students in a program, international or domestic, regardless of where they’re from, need to do an internship in order to graduate,” Driscoll said.

Following the announcement of these changes, Quinnipiac’s OISS did a full audit of the school’s programs to determine which required an internship for graduation and which did not.

Some of Quinnipiac’s programs that do not require an internship to graduate include history, English, biology and math, to name a few.

Driscoll has seen the effects these changes are having on international students, especially within the graduate programs.

“We have a large international graduate population and most of our graduate programs do not require internships,” Driscoll said. “...We have had some students that were planning to do an internship this semester that could no longer do it because it didn’t meet this requirement.”

One of those students is 4+1 computer science graduate student Tuana Turhan.

Coming to the U.S. from Ankara, Turkey, Turhan was first recruited to Vincennes University in Indiana to play Division I volleyball in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). After a year in Indiana, Turhan transferred to Quinnipiac, where she competed with the Bobcats for three seasons until graduating in May 2026 as a computer science major with a mathematics minor.

After wrapping up her time as a student-ath-

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International oil crisis impacts student drivers

By BRYCE INFALD
Staff Writer

The Iran War and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine have contributed to a rise in gas prices, making driving to school more expensive for Quinnipiac University commuters.

Oil exports from many different countries have been affected by the Iran War. The Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea have become far less conducive to trade, which has led to multiple Middle Eastern nations having their oil exports disrupted, according to Quinnipiac Professor of International Business Mohammad Elahee.

The United States doesn’t rely on Middle Eastern nations for its oil supply, as the majority of oil in the U.S. is produced internally. However, Elahee stated that American prices still increase when global prices increase.

“So for a global commodity like oil, the price that you pay here at home reflects the global price,” Elahee said. “So even though we are not suffering from those wild swings in demand and supply, since the global price has gone up, our price has also gone up.”

The absence of potential ceasefires in Ukraine and Iran has made businesses unable to plan for the future.

“When business people do not know what may happen, they will hoard more,” Elahee said. “Maybe they will keep the price higher than what market conditions demand right now. So, actual shortage combined with this growing uncertainty is causing havoc in the oil market, and when (the) oil price rises, everything else rises.”

The price of gas has risen by about 42.8% since last year. This price increase has become apparent for Quinnipiac commuter students, who have had to deal with the ever-fluctuating gas prices to get to their classes.

“Every day I always think about (the price of gas), wondering if it’s going to go back down because my worry is even though I’m working a lot and I’m also trying to pay off this tuition from obviously college, it’s kind of harder because I’m also paying a lot of money just to get gas about every other week because of the increase of gas prices,” sophomore physical therapy major Matthew Corriveau said.

Freshman finance major Emily Horning stated that high gas prices have decreased her “purchasing power.”

“I work, so when I go to the pump and I see that it’s 90 bucks to fill up my tank, it definitely… is like a detriment,” Horning said.

Not all commuters share the same concerns about gas prices. First-year Master of Business Administration student Donatavius Reese acknowledged the price increase but said it hasn’t had a major impact on his commute.

“I see the higher gas prices, but you still got to pay it…,” Reese said. “If I’m only getting gas like once every couple weeks anyways, it’s not really hurting me that much.”

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