

# Frequently Asked Questions about Taxes

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**Q: I am an international student do I have to file a tax return or tax form in 2012 for 2011?**

YES! If you worked in the United States 2011 you **MUST** file a tax return. Even if you **did not work** you are still **REQUIRED** to file a Form 8843.

**Q: What do I need to know about seeking employment while in the United States for income tax purposes?**

International students **MUST fill out a form W-4**, when beginning employment. **NOT A W-9!** International students with an F or J Visa are **NOT** allowed to work as independent contractors. Working as an independent contractor means you are not in substantial compliance with your Visa.

**Q: I did not work in the United States in 2011, do I still have to file a tax return?**

YES! If you are a non-resident alien and do not have any income, the law requires you to file Form 8843. We can assist you in filling out this form.

**Q: What could happen if I do not file?**

You could be made to leave the US if you fail to file the required form or return. You could have problems reentering the US if you go home for vacation.

**Q: Do I Have to Have a Social Security Number to File a Tax Return?**

No, you are still required to file a tax form even if you do not have a social security number.

**Q: My friend's tax return is different than mine, why?**

Specific countries have different tax treaties with the United States. These treaties include provisions to treat income differently depending from what country you entered the United States.

**Q: If I am a non resident alien am I eligible for refundable tax credit benefits (Ex. Education Credits)?**

In most cases NO! If you receive these in error you will be responsible for repaying the money to the Internal Revenue Service, and you will owe additional penalties and interest charges.

**Q: Where can I get help in filing the required tax return or tax form?**

See Schedule of Free Tax Workshops at <http://www.missouristate.edu/soa/TaxClinic.htm>

## **Low Income Tax Clinic**

**Free Tax Workshops for ESL and nonresident alien students**

**417-836-3007**

**Glass Hall 427**