



# Tax Preparation

Tax Filing Tips For International Students

**UNT**  
EST. 1890

STUDENT MONEY  
MANAGEMENT CENTER  
Division of Student Affairs

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# Why file taxes?



The United States government uses **taxes** to pay its bills and provide **public goods** and **services**. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) collects the taxes you owe through withholding from your paycheck, estimated tax payments, and when you file your taxes each year.



# Tax Treaties

- The U.S. has income tax treaties with many different countries.
- Residents of these countries may be taxed at a reduced rate or be exempt from U.S. income tax withholding on specific kinds of U.S. source income.
- If no treaty exists with your country, you must pay tax on the income.

# Who must file?



All international students (F, J, M, and Q visas) have an obligation to complete a tax form once per year for the **first five calendar years** that they are in the U.S.

Generally, tax returns are due every April 15 based on earnings from the previous year, though there are exceptions to this deadline.

This year the deadline is **April 15, 2019**.



# Determine your status

## 5 years or less?

Nonresident Alien for Tax Purposes

Use GLACIER Tax Prep (GTP) provided for free by UNT International will ensure correct filing of your tax return

## 6 years or more?

Resident for Tax Purposes

Do not use 8843, considered a resident for tax purposes.

May be eligible for Learning Credits



# Have Available

- Passport;
- Know your entry and exit dates
- I-20 (for F visa status) or DS-2019 (for J visa status)
- All pay documents (W-2, 1042-S, 1099, etc.)
- Banking information for direct deposit, if you are to receive a return
- A copy of last year's federal income tax return (if filed)

# Filing Tips

- Make photocopies of your documents for your records.
- Take your time
- If filing as a Nonresident Alien (in the U.S. not more than 5 years) you cannot file electronically. Must mail by tax deadline!





# How and where to file

- Nonresident Aliens- Use GLACIER Tax Prep (GTP) software to ensure you are using the correct form - Print out/sign/date forms and mail (must be **post marked by April 15!**)
- Resident for Tax Purposes (in U.S. for 6 years or more) you cannot use GTP, you can file on your own with any (free) tax prep software available online. VITA Denton, H & R Block, etc. available to assist, some with a fee.





# After filing

- Save all your tax filing forms
- Keep records for **3 years** from **the** date you filed your original return or **2 years** from the date you paid the tax, whichever is later, if you file a claim for credit or refund after you file your return. Keep records for **7 years** if you file a claim for a loss from worthless securities or bad debt deduction.



# No U.S. source income?

- File **Form 8843** only
- You and any dependents (spouse/child)- must be filed separately
- Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is not needed if you have no U.S. source income and only need to file Form 8843.
- Must print, sign and mail by June 17, 2019.

# Your On-Campus Resources



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Chestnut Hall 313  
[Moneymanagement.unt.edu](http://Moneymanagement.unt.edu)



Marquis Hall 105  
[international.unt.edu](http://international.unt.edu)

*Please note: Staff in both the SMMC and UNT International offices are **not** able to give tax advice about individual cases as they are not tax professionals.*

**DON'T FORGET!**

This year's tax filing deadline is **April 15, 2019**