



February 5, 2021

The Dean and Vice Provost  
Division of Global Engagement  
5209 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403

## Sprintax for International Graduate Students: Act of Social Injustice

Dear Dr. Galvan,

As you may be aware, the International Graduate Students (IGS) of the University of Oregon (UO) have been reporting the lack of adequate resources for filing taxes in Town Halls and other spaces for some time now. The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) website and blog were outdated and had missing information or misinformation about many particularities of our diverse cases of taxation even until last month. The annual tax assistance workshops also did not take place last year due to COVID-19, which was of very limited help to novices anyway. A document with testimonies of the varying degrees of harm and loss suffered by our members due to, and in the process of filing taxes is attached to this letter. This is only a handful of accounts among hundreds that we face every year because of UO's lack of support and resources for International students.

As we were drafting an open letter for the Division of Global Engagement (DGE) to purchase Sprintax for UO's International Graduate Employees a couple of weeks back, we chanced upon the fact that UO has listed Sprintax as an available resource. Our excited gratitude was short-lived, as we discovered the inequitable, unhealthy language in the explanation of the caveats of UO's offer. Only the first 100 users of an 'open to public access' code via ISSS's link to Sprintax will be able to file their Federal Taxes for free, though the State Taxes required a full



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payment of Sprintax fees. The rest of the International Students have to pay the full charge of filing their federal tax returns (a minimum of 37.95\$) via Sprintax, like any other user of the service. According to our informal records, there are over 300 International Graduate Employees at UO right now, and there are definitely more graduate and undergraduate students, who have to file taxes. When we contacted Sprintax, we found out that while individual students would have to pay upwards of 37.95\$ for their application, if UO purchases codes in bulk, the institution would have to pay 6\$ per person, or even less than that.

Why would UO make this essential service for international students a race for speed, and only let a handful of them access it? It is going to be laborious to list the number of ways in which UO makes it clear to its International Students and Employees every day that it is not an equitable institution that respects and recognizes their struggles and labor. This gesture is just another example of UO's apathy, where it is offering a limited, divisive service as a token or trophy, instead of attempting to mitigate an economic inequity that International Students have to suffer on a regular basis. Does UO not have enough funds to purchase a service worth 6\$ a unit for all its International students? This is disrespectful and distasteful, to say the least.

Most universities with a considerable number of International Students give them access to Sprintax to file taxes, free of charge, including our neighboring Oregon State University and Portland State University. When we were asking for a Sprintax subscription, it did not occur to us that UO could turn it into another toxic gamble for us, where we have to compete amongst our economically disadvantaged community, to have access to a basic necessity. International Students thus have to pay more money in order to receive much less money in returns than their domestic counterparts. International Graduate Students have to pay a much higher rate of taxes anyway, amidst and despite their ineligibility to most federal and state funds for financial assistance of any sort. Now UO is adding to this economic disparity and making more acute the differences and the continuous divisiveness it promotes in its day-to-day practices.



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We, therefore, ask the Division of Global Engagement and the Provost's Office to attend to this act of social injustice immediately and make Sprintax a service accessible to all its international students and employees free-of-cost. We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has negatively and financially impacted international communities disproportionately already. The last reign of the U.S. federal government has also put its international populations through endless trials and trepidations unjustly. The University of Oregon is not far off from repeating all those injustices and harms on its international members. We demand a swift reversal and reformation of its tactics and making changes to this Sprintax provision will be a small step towards that long endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mushira Habib (VP, Equity and Inclusion, GTFF)

Natascha Reich (Chair, International GE Caucus)

Pearl Lee (Chair, International GE Advocacy Committee)

Rajeev Ravisankar (President, GTFF)

Courtney Tabor (VP for Grievances, GTFF)

Annalise Gardella (VP of Political Education, GTFF)

Rhiannon Lindgren (VP of Organizing, GTFF)

Nicole Nieves (Treasurer, GTFF)

Tal-Hi Bitton (VP of Membership, GTFF)

Jean-Baptiste Simonnet (International GE, Comparative Literature)

David Fainstein (International GE, School of Psychology)

Untara Rayeesa (International GE, Comparative Literature)

Yufei Zhao (International GE, Psychology)

Jingshu Xia (International GE, Steward, Department of Geography)

Xiang LI (International GE, Economics),

Insang Song (International GE, Steward, Geography)

Ziyad Alsaeed (International GE, Computer and Information Science)



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Wenyi Yang (Member, International GE, Sociology)  
Iryna Stavynska (International GE, Folklore)  
Thuy Nguyen (International GE, Political Science)  
Leting Zheng (International GE, East Asian Languages and Literatures)  
Esteban Zuniga (International GE, Music - Voice)  
Syu-Heng Lai (International GE, Earth Sciences)  
Mansoor Shekarian (International GE, Business School)  
Anni Xiong (International GE, Physics)  
Congli Zhang (International GE, College of Education)  
Massimo Cisternino (International GE, Department of Philosophy)  
Anastasia Shulha (International GE, Accounting)  
Mathilde Bégu (International GE, Romance Languages)  
Pramod Dudhe (International GE, Economics)  
Cameron Kay (International GE, Psychology)  
Manas Murthy (International GE, Architecture)  
Anupam Satumane (International GE, Architecture)  
Moeko Yamazaki (International GE, Steward, History)  
Sangeet Paul (International GE, Physics)  
Masaki Eguchi (International GE, Linguistics)  
Puja Ghosh (International GE, Philosophy)  
Hannah Petkau (International GE, Fine Art)  
SM Shihab Siddiqui (International GE, Economics)  
Yei Won Lim (International GE, Comparative Literature)  
Puja Parmar (International GE, Economics)  
Elio Garcia (International GE, English)  
Iryna Volynets (International GE, Landscape Architecture)  
Asha Yadav (International GE, Special Education)  
Alonso Delfín Ares de Parga (international GE, Mathematics)  
Antonella Onofrietti Magrassi (International GE, School Psychology)



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Indroneil Bir Biswas (International GE, Media Studies)  
Wenjing Bao (International GE, Special Education)  
Jidong Wang (International GE, Mathematics)  
Jinlan Zhu (International GE, Special Education)  
Srinivasan Ramesh (International GE, Computer and Information Sciences)  
Wencong You (International GE, Computer and Information Science)  
Xuan Guan (International GE, Linguistics)  
Irina Vetchinkina (International GE, Political Science)  
Minyoung Park (International GE, English)  
Amy Haojie Yang (International GE, Accounting)  
Francesco Arceri (International GE, Physics)  
Lara Boyero Agudo (International GE, Romance Languages)  
Victoria Olajide ( International GE, Anthropology)  
Murillo Rodrigues (International GE, Biology)  
Tingyu Zou (International GE, Media Studies)  
Viet Lai (International GE, Computer and Information Science)  
Ouafaa Hmaddi (International GE, Management)  
Keya Saxena (International GE, Media Studies)  
Liudmila Listrovaya (International GE, Sociology)  
Jungang Li (International GE, Economics)  
Shan Ren (International GE, East Asian Languages and Literatures)  
Marina Peñalosa Montero (International GE, Romance Languages)  
Alejandra Garcia Isaza (International GE, Prevention Science)  
Dana Cohen Lissman (international GE, SPED)  
Lisa Hoeller (international GE, German and Scandinavian)  
Yeongseo Yu (International GE, Landscape Architecture)  
Marco Corrales (International GE, Biology)  
Dana Buzzee (International GE, Art)



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Verena Zabel (International GE, Russian, EastEuropean and Eurasian Studies)  
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Luis Fernando Guzman Nateras (International GE, Computer and Information Science)  
Mohammad Eshghi (International GE, Geography)  
Thipkanok Wongphothipphan (International GE, Media Studies)  
Karikarn Chansiri (International GE, Media Studies)  
Lola Loustaunau (International GE, Sociology)  
Abhishek Yenpure (International GE, Computer and Information Science)  
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Sophie Miller (GE, Anthropology)  
Moriah Stendel (International GE, Psychology)  
Golnaz Bahrami (International GE, Mathematics)  
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Mary McLevey (International GE, Philosophy)  
Suzanne Basson (International GE, Musicology)  
Jinsun Yang (International GE, Sociology)  
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Cameron Gamble (International GE, Philosophy)

Nicolás Jaramillo Torres (International GE, Mathematics)

Caela Fenton (International GE, English)

Monserrat Cascante Matamoros (International GE, Earth Sciences)

Tobias Lehmann (International GE, German and Scandinavian)

Juan Sebastián Ospina ((International GE,Philosophy)

Alexandre Chen (International GE, Computer and Information Science)

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Shuangting Xiong (International GE, East Asian Languages and Literatures)

Jun Lang (International GE, East Asian Languages and Literatures)

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Maria Coronado (International GE, Architecture)

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Yebo Feng (International GE, Computer and Information Science)

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