CAREER CONNECTIONS

A PROGRAM OF THEDREAM.US

TAX MATTERS

Frequently Asked Questions

DISCLAIMER: **This document is for informational purposes only, and should not be considered tax, financial or legal advice. Consult a tax advisor to discuss your specific situation and tax obligations.**

Do I need to file taxes if I am undocumented?

Yes, if you earn income that is greater than the filing tax requirement, you must file taxes. To figure out whether you need to pay taxes, use the IRS' free Interactive Tax Assistant Tool.

When is tax season and when are tax deadlines?

Tax season takes place from January to mid-April. During this time, individuals and businesses prepare their documents for filing taxes, which are generally due on or around April 15 of each year.

How do I file and pay taxes as an undocumented immigrant?

First, you need to have either a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). If you do not have an ITIN, visit TheDream.US' ITIN webpage to learn how to apply for one. Next, you'll need to gather the right documents and know what tax forms to fill out. Consult a tax advisor for further guidance.

Is it safe to file taxes as an undocumented individual?

Generally, yes. Despite a few disclosure exceptions, the IRS follows strict non-disclosure laws prohibiting them from releasing taxpayer information to other government agencies.

Is compensation from my internship or fellowship taxable?

It depends. If the compensation is explicitly meant to be used for qualified education expenses (defined by the IRS as tuition, required fees, books and/or supplies), it generally would **not** be taxable income. Compensation that can be used freely and without restrictions is considered taxable income. Examples of taxable income include compensation from TheDream.US Internship Funding Program and Experiential Fellowship Program.

How do I find a tax preparer?

Review the IRS Choosing a Tax Professional website and consider these tips outlined by the IRS. Beware: Though most tax preparers provide excellent services to clients, there are some tax preparers that file fraudulent tax returns. Do your research.

Are there any FREE or low-cost tax assistance resources?

Yes, there are several free or low-cost tax preparation resources including:

- **IRS Free File**- If you are comfortable preparing your own tax return, you can use IRS Free File to prepare and file your federal income tax form online for free.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites**- The IRS VITA program offers free tax help to individuals who make $60,000 or less, have disabilities, or speak limited English. Use the VITA Locator Tool to find local programs or ask your college faculty or staff as these programs often partner with colleges and the local community.
- **Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITC)**- LITC's assist low-income individuals who have a tax dispute with the IRS. Find LITC locations near you by scrolling down to the "Need legal help with a tax issue? Find your local clinic" section. Services are provided for free or for a small fee.