

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
ORIENTATION
2006

Life in the United States as an International
Student

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

- USCIS
 - Responsible for Applications and Petitions
- ICE
 - Responsible for investigations, detentions, removal, intelligence and SEVIS
- CBP
 - Responsible for Border Patrol and Port of Entries

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
 - Manages the J-visa program
- The Bureau of Consular Affairs
 - Manages Visa Office

THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (C.F.R.)

- The Official codification of “general and permanent rules” published in the Federal Registry by the US Government.
- Regulations in the C.F.R. are considered laws
- Language in C.F.R. limits the applicability of a definition

IMMIGRATION PRIMER

- **Visa Status**

- F Status (F-1 “primary” or F-2 “dependent”)
- J Status (J-1 “primary” or J-2 “dependent”)

- **Certificate of Eligibility Form**

- DS-2019 or I-20 must be kept current
- Passport must be valid for 6 months or more and must be renewed according to US law

- **Visa**

- It may expire while in the United States. It must be renewed to re-enter to the United States

- **I-94 card**

- D/S refers to “Duration of status.” This document must be replaced if lost, damaged or stolen.

IMMIGRATION PRIMER

- Replacement of I-94 card
 - The I-94 card is the key document for many nonimmigrant functions. If lost/stolen or damaged, the document must be replaced as soon as possible.
 - It takes USCIS a couple of months to replace your I-94 card
 - The OISS has a handout that will help you replace your I-94 card

IMMIGRATION PRIMER

USCIS Reporting Center

USCIS-Vermont Service Center

75 Lower Welden Street

St. Albans, VT 05479-0001

MAINTAINING LAWFUL STATUS

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- **F-1 and J-1 international students must maintain full-time credits or full course of study at all times**
 - Undergraduates: 12 credits
 - Graduates with out assistantship: 9 credits
 - Graduate Students with assistantships: 6 credits
- **Make normal progress towards completing the degree**

MAINTAINING LAWFUL STATUS

- **Exceptions to the Full Course of Study Requirement**
 - Student must obtain permission from the Graduate School and the OISS
 - OISS will only grant permission if the student provides documentations supporting one of the four conditions listed below:
 - Illness or Medical Condition
 - Improper Course Level Placement
 - Initial difficulty with the English Language
 - Initial difficulty with Reading Requirements
 - Unfamiliarity with American Teaching Style
 - Final semester

MAINTAINING LAWFUL STATUS

- **F-1/I-20 and J-1/DS-2019**
 - Documents must be valid and readable
 - Sign for travel (when needed)
 - Follow procedures to extend program
 - Abide by F-1 and J-1 grace period (completion of program)
 - Report changes in
 - Major/field of study
 - Educational level
 - Address (update OISS within 10 days)
 - Transfer to another school
 - Etc.
- **Official Annual Vacation and/or other Semester Breaks**
 - Summer, thanksgiving, winter and spring

REINSTATEMENT

- USCIS may consider a request for reinstatement if the student can prove the following:
 - The student is not out of status more than 5 months
 - Absence of repeated violations
 - The student is in full course of study or will be in the following term
 - The student has not engaged in unauthorized employment
- Travel and re-entry for cases with poor chance of success

COMMON TROUBLE AREAS

- Distance Learning
- On-campus Employment
- Off-campus Employment
- Completion of the Course of study
- Graduation
- Research credit vs. CRG
- Reinstatement
- Travel

DISTANCE EDUCATION

- International Students are limited to 3 credits/semester or session
- USCIS does not limit the number of distance education credits that can be used towards a degree

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

- Teaching, graduate and/or research assistants, school library, cafeteria, and administrative offices
- Local commercial firms that provide services to students on campus such as the bookstore, Ram's Den, America's Cup
- Work done off-campus, but treated as on-campus
 - Requires an educational affiliation
 - Must be associated with the school established curriculum
 - Contractual research integral of the student's educational program at the post-graduate level
- **On campus** employment does not include
 - Employment at the emporium or other commercial firms that lease space on campus

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- Twenty Hour Limit

- All jobs have a 20 hrs/week limit while school is in session. Limit does not apply during official school breaks.

- Payroll Office and Human Resources

- I-9 form, Drug Free Work Place Form and W-4
- Valid I-20 and/or DS-2019 and I-94
- Social Security Card

- Social Security

- Certificate of eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019)
- Passport
- I-94 card
- Completed Social Security Application
- Letter from our office verifying current immigration status
- Proof/promise of employment (employer, CPT authorization or original EAD card)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- **Economic Hardship (on or off campus)**
- **Special Student Relief (on or off campus)**
- **International Organization (off or off campus)**
 - Student must be currently maintaining status
 - Requires OISS processing and USCIS approval
 - If approved Employment Authorization Card (EAD) will be issued by USCIS
 - Some have attendance preconditions
 - School attendance varies depending on category

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Curricular Practical Training
 - Internship, cooperative education, and supervised field work
 - Must be a required activity of the field of study
 - Requires course registration
 - Requires employment letter with description of the job, dates, activity and location
 - Must be completed before completion of course of study
- Optional Practical Training
 - (usually after graduation)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Optional Practical Training
 - Student must have been lawfully enrolled in an DHS approved school
 - Directly related to and corresponding to the level of the student course of study
 - 20 hour limit while school is in session if the student is still taking courses
 - No hour limit if the student has completed all course requirement but thesis or equivalent
 - 12 month limit cumulative maximum
 - Requires an EAD card from USCIS
 - Must apply before completion of the course of study
 - May have multiple employers

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Academic Training (J-1 only)
 - Academic training (AT) allows a J-1 student to engage in work, training or experience that is directly related to the student's field of study.
 - AT may be paid or unpaid
 - Full-time or part-time
 - With one employer or several employers
 - While completing the course of study
 - After completion of the course of study (30 days after the completion of studies)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Academic Training (J-1 only)
 - **Eligibility Requirements**
 - Student must be in good academic standing at the time of the application.
 - AT must be performed with a specific employer or training site
 - AT requires written approval (prior to the beginning of the employment) from a Responsible Officer (RO) at the Office of International Students and Scholars
 - Student must be in the U.S. primarily to study rather than engage in AT. This is meant to eliminate situations in which the student studies for a short period and undertakes training for a longer period.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Academic Training: Time Limitations
 - Bachelors, Master's, or Doctoral program
 - Limited to 18 months and includes all period of academic training done before or after the completion of the degree.
 - Non-degree student
 - Limited to 18 months and/or the time spent in a full-course of study.
 - Postdoctoral training
 - Limited to no more than 36 months provided that the student spent at least 36 months in a Ph.D program.
 - The first AT approval will consist of 18 months. A second 18 months would be approved depending on supportive documentation

TRAVEL

List of requirements for Re-entry

- A valid passport or travel document
- A valid F-1 or J-1 visa (unless exempt from passport and visa requirements)
- I-20 or DS-2019 must be signed by staff at the Office of International Students and Scholars

COMPLETION OF STUDIES

- Depart the US within 60 days (F-1 only) and 30 days (J-1 only)
- Continue status by starting a new program at another school
- Apply for OPT (F-1) or Academic Training (J-1) before completing the course of study
- Apply for change of status to another nonimmigrant classification no later than 60 days (F-1) and 30 days (J-1) after completing the course of study.

**If you fail to do this, you will be considered to be
“out of status.”**

OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AND SCHOLARS

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

- **Mission**

- **To provide services to all international students (F-1 and J-1) and scholars (J) and their dependents (F-2 and J-2)**
 - Preparation of documents and update on information connected with F and J immigration matters
 - Referral services (URI, government agencies, health agencies, etc.)
 - Advocacy (URI, government offices, employers, etc.)
 - Cross-cultural programs (Host Family Program, Coffee Hours, Holiday Celebrations, etc.)

OISS WEB-BASED SERVICES

- **News**
- **Forms**
 - Admission and Registration
 - Academic (transfer, reduce course load, extension, reinstatement, etc.)
 - Employment (on and off campus, CPT, OPT)
- **Dependents**
 - Change of immigration status
 - Add dependents

OISS WEB-BASED SERVICES

● Request

- Appointments with an advisor
- Letters (Drivers License, Social Security Card, Enrollment Verification, Visa Status, URI ID card)
- Workshops
- Report address changes
- Handouts
 - I-94 Replacement
 - Reinstatement
 - Termination of F-1 or J-1 status
 - Transfer in and/or out form
 - Address update form
 - Change of status category
 - Etc.

STAY CONNECTED

- Sign up for listserv
 - listserv@pete.uri.edu
- Remember to report address changes and any other changes in information listed in your I-20 or DS-2019
- When in doubt contact the staff
 - 37 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881
 - Tel: (401) 874-2395
 - E-mail: issoff@etal.uri.edu

BEST
WISHES
TO YOU!!!!

Office of International Students and Scholars

www.uri.edu/iss