



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Spring 2011

The Office of International Student Services

END OF SEMESTER REMINDERS

If you are graduating this May you will need to meet with your international student coordinator to complete a separation form, make sure all of your documents are up to date and to discuss your plans for the future. If you are thinking about applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT) in order to work in the US after graduation, please set up an appointment

to meet

with the International Student Coordinator as well to discuss the application process. The OPT application process requires 2 appointments with the coordinator. The first appointment is a session that will educate you about the application process and the rules and guidelines of being on OPT. During the second appointment you will bring in all the required paperwork and documents needed

to submit your application. Please be aware that it takes 60-90 days to get a decision from USCIS on whether or not your OPT has been approved.

Continuing Students are encouraged to report any changes in their pertinent information, such as phone numbers, addresses, and name changes to the International Student Services office. Updated information is needed to maintain your student file.



OPT CHECKLIST

- Make sure you have completed all the requirements for graduation.
- Make certain you are in good immigration status as an F1 student.
- Pick up an OPT application packet with the I765 form from the International Student Services Office.
- Have your advisor fill out the academic advisor's recommendation for OPT form.
- Bring all of your immigration documents with you when meeting with the International Student Coordinator.

Working During the Academic Term

F-1 students who are maintaining status may work part time on campus while classes are in session. "Part time" means not more than 20 hours per week. You do not need USCIS authorization to work on campus. During vacation periods and academic breaks, you may work full time on campus if you are returning to classes the following term.



IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT MAINTENANCE

Take a few moments to look at your form I-20. Check the program end date listed on the document. If your program expires soon and you plan to continue your studies for the following semester you must inquire about an "extension of stay" in the International Student Services office.

OPENING A U.S. BANK ACCOUNT

If interested, you are eligible to open a bank account without a United States Social Security Number. Financial institutions may have different procedures, but you should be able to open an account with proof of your identity. The bank may ask for your passport, student ID and current visa.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Student Orientation

August 22, 2011

Talon Center, Room 210

Student Check-In

August 26, 2011

September 14, 2011

September 16, 2011

Division of Student Affairs

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM (ISSP)

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MAINTAINING LEGAL STATUS

As an F-1 student, you were admitted to the United States for “duration of status” (D/S on the white I-94 card in your passport). This means you are permitted to stay in the U.S. as long as you maintain your status by fulfilling the requirements of being an F-1 student. Keep in mind that there is an important difference between an F-1 visa and F-1 status. The visa is a stamp placed in your passport by a United States embassy or consulate and is granted for entry purposes only. F-1 status is granted when you enter the United States and is regulated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Even if your visa is valid, you can lose your legal F-1 status if you do not comply with immigration laws regulating your stay in the United States. Penalties for violating these regulations will result in your having to apply for reinstatement, voluntarily leave the U.S., or be subjected to deportation.

TIPS ON CROSS-CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

1. **Listen and Observe.** The new culture will have roles and norms that may be unfamiliar to you. Therefore, listen to verbal communication and observe non-verbal communication carefully and try to put them in their proper context.
2. **Ask Questions.** Most Americans will be very helpful to you if you need an explanation of something. You may need to rephrase a question, check the meaning of something, or repeat what you have said.
3. **Openness and Curiosity.** To experience a new culture and to learn from it, it is important to be open to new experiences, to try new things and to be curious about the way things are done in a new place. The more you explore, the more you will learn.
4. **Anxiety and Frustration.** Learning to function in a new culture is not easy, and it is natural to feel anxious and frustrated. If you recognize that these are a normal part of the experience, you may be able to deal with them more effectively. Your sense of humor and openness will also help.
5. **Become Involved.** The more you put into the experience, the more you will learn from it. You should make an effort to meet people, form friendships, get involved in activities and learn about the people and their culture.

TRAVEL

As always, if you are going to be traveling outside of the United States during summer break, you need to get your I-20 endorsed for reentry on Page 3. Remember that the Customs Border Protection inspectors at the airport and border towns are not required to admit you if your I-20 is not signed. Finally, make certain to have all of your immigration documents on your person as well, even when you travel *inside* the United States.

GLOSSARY OF IMMIGRATION TERMINOLOGY

USCIS:	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
COS:	Change of Status
DSO:	Designated School Official - The person the school has indicated to the USCIS who will act on its behalf with the F1 student program
Visa:	The stamp in the passport that permits someone to apply for admission to the United States at the port of entry.
Status:	The legal classification held by non-immigrants while in the United States
I-94:	Arrival/Departure document issued to all non-immigrants upon entry into the United States
I-20:	Immigration form issued to students on F1 visas

