Immigration Regulations for New International Students

International Student Orientation
Fall 2019
Welcome to Binghamton University

PRESENTATION AGENDA

• About the ISSS
• Immigration Documents
• Course Registration Requirements
• Employment
• Important Updates
ABOUT THE ISSS

• Assist the university and international students with following federal regulations for international students and scholars
• Provide education, information, and services related to federal regulations
• Support campus internationalization and international students’ integration into the Binghamton University community.

• Advising Walk-In Hours
  • No appointment needed
  • Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am-11:45am
  • Wednesday & Thursday: 1:30pm-3:30pm

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

• Four Primary Immigration Documents:
  • I-20/DS-2019
  • F-1 or J-1 Visa
  • Passport
  • I-94
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: I-20/DS-2019

- You must make sure that the information on your I-20/DS-2019 is accurate:
  - Program dates are current
  - Name and date of birth are correct
  - Program of study is correct

- If any information on your I-20/DS-2019 changes, for example your program of study, contact ISSS for an updated document.

- We can extend your I-20/DS-2019 **BEFORE** it expires.

- We cannot extend your I-20/DS-2019 **AFTER** it expires.

- You will receive email alerts from the ISSS office before your I-20/DS-2019 expires.

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IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: I-20

See under Program of Study- “Program End Date”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of Study</th>
<th>Major 1</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Level</td>
<td>Master’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program English Proficiency</td>
<td>English Proficiency Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program English Notes</td>
<td>Student is proficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start of Classes</th>
<th>Program Start/End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 August 2019</td>
<td>14 August 2019 - 31 May 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: I-20

- ISSS staff travel signature
- Travel signature is valid for 1 year

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: DS-2019

You need to know your program end date!
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: DS-2019

- ISSS staff travel signature
- Travel signature is valid for 1 year

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IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: VISA
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: VISA

- Your F-1/J-1 visa has an expiration date. If the visa expires while you are in the U.S., it is not a problem, as long as your I-20/DS-2019 and passport are valid.

- Travel outside the U.S. requires a valid, unexpired visa to reenter the U.S.

- If you are outside of the U.S. for more than 5 months (and not registered for any Binghamton credits), you will need to apply for a new visa, even if your current visa is still valid.

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: PASSPORT

- Your passport must be valid at least 6 months into the future at all times.

- Passport renewal procedures vary by country. Typically, you may renew your passport 6 months prior to the expiration date.

- Contact your country's embassy in the U.S. to determine the procedure for obtaining a new passport.
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS: I-94

• The I-94 record is the Arrival / Departure Record, in electronic format, issued by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer.

• If you were admitted in F-1 or J-1 status, your I-94 record is marked “D/S” (Duration of Status).

• Every time you enter the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status, you need to print your new I-94 record: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/.

• If you cannot access your I-94 record, or the information on your I-94 record is incorrect, contact the ISSS office.

• You will need your I-94 to:
  1. Apply for New York State Driver’s License
  2. Apply for a Social Security Card
  3. Complete employment documents
HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN THE U.S.?

• F-1 students may remain in the U.S. for 60 days after your program end date listed on your I-20.

• J-1 students may remain in the U.S. for 30 days after your program end date listed on your DS-2019.

STATUS OR NO STATUS?

• Lubna was told that she must leave the U.S. because her visa has expired! Her I-20 and passport are valid and she is currently attending school full-time.

• Does Lubna have status to remain in the U.S. and complete the semester, or must she leave the U.S. because her visa has expired?
STATUS OR NO STATUS?

ANSWER: STATUS

Lubna does not need a valid visa to remain inside the U.S. because her I-20 and passport are valid and she is going to school full-time.

You need a valid visa when you re-enter the U.S.

STATUS OR NO STATUS?

• Megh is traveling to India over the Summer 2020 break. His I-20 program end date is May 31, 2023 and his passport and visa are both valid. The travel signature on Megh’s I-20 is dated August 15, 2019. He will re-enter the U.S. on August 20, 2020.

• Does Megh have all of the correct immigration documents to maintain his status and re-enter the U.S. for the Fall 2020 semester?
STATUS OR NO STATUS?

ANSWER: NO STATUS

Megh does not have a valid travel signature.

To re-enter the U.S., you need the following documents:

1. Valid I-20/DS-2019 – The travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 has to be less than one year old from the date you will return to Binghamton.

2. Passport – Your passport must be valid at least six months into the future upon return to the U.S.

3. F-1/J-1 Visa – Must be unexpired upon re-entry.

ADDRESS UPDATES

• F-1 and J-1 students are required to notify ISSS within 10 days of any address changes.

• If you move, update your address online: binghamton.edu/isss > Essential Forms > Administrative Services > Address Change.
COURSE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- You must register for a full-time course load each Fall and Spring semester until graduation.

- Failure to register as a full-time student is a violation of your non-immigrant status and will result in the loss of F-1 or J-1 benefits (including employment eligibility both on and off campus).

- It is very important to your immigration status that you maintain full-time course enrollment throughout the entire semester. If you find that you are doing poorly in a class, be sure to visit our office and talk with us before you drop the class.

### Academic Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Minimum Full-Time Course Load</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Students</td>
<td>12 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Students</td>
<td>12 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Students (less than 24 credits completed)</td>
<td>12 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Students (more than 24 credits completed)</td>
<td>9 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD Students (Master’s Completed)</td>
<td>9 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REGULATIONS FOR TAKING ONLINE COURSES

• International students can take only ONE online course per semester toward the minimum full-time enrollment requirement.

• Example: As a first semester undergraduate or graduate student registered for 12 credits, you can take 1 online course (4 credits) and 2 on-campus courses (8 credits).

• You can take more than one online course, but only one will meet your full-time enrollment requirements.

• Example: As a first semester undergraduate or graduate student registered for 16 credits, you can take 2 online courses (8 credits) and 2 on-campus courses (8 credits).

REDUCED COURSE LOAD (RCL)

• There are few exceptions to the full-time course requirement.

• These exceptions include:
  • Academic Difficulty in the First Semester
  • Medical Condition
  • Completion of Study (Student in Final Semester)

• Get prior authorization from the ISSS BEFORE dropping below a full course of study.
STATUS OR NO STATUS?

- Ming, an undergraduate student, is taking 12 credits in the Fall 2019 semester. Four (4) credits are on-campus courses and eight (8) credits are on-line courses.

- Is Ming maintaining status with this course registration schedule?

ANSWER: NO STATUS

Ming can only take 1 course (4 credits) online to make up the full-time enrollment requirement of 12 credits.
EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

• Be aware of the different kinds of employment options available to you.
• Be aware of the necessary procedures and processing times.
• When in doubt, ask the ISSS!
• Unauthorized employment is one of the most serious violations that you can make as an international student. Unauthorized employment can greatly impact your future immigration benefits.

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: F-1 STUDENTS

• On-Campus Employment
  • Immediately available if registered full time and in valid status.
  • Limited to a total of 20 hours/week for all jobs while school is in session.
  • On-campus employment includes work done as a teaching or research assistant, as well as jobs in the university library, residence halls, dining facilities, laboratories and administrative offices.

• Off-Campus Employment
  • Curricular and Optional Practical Training
  • You must have authorization in advance
  • You must be enrolled as a full-time student for ONE ACADEMIC YEAR.
EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: J-1 STUDENTS

• No eligibility period for either on-campus or off-campus employment.

• All employment (on-campus or off-campus) needs to be authorized in advance by the ISSS office.

APPLY FOR A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

• You do not need a Social Security number to apply for a driver’s license, open a bank account, get a cell phone, etc.

• F-1 and J-1 students can only be issued a Social Security number (SSN) if they can show proof of paid employment.

• If you are a new student, you must be present in the U.S. for two weeks (14 days) AND wait until after the first week of classes to apply for your Social Security number.

• You can begin your employment without possessing your Social Security number.

• You must bring your employment letter to the ISSS office to be signed before you apply for your Social Security number.

• The ISSS will provide you with a Social Security application and instructions.
STATUS OR NO STATUS?

• Anwar is a new F-1 student for the Fall 2019 semester and he is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Economics. He is registered for 12 credits in the Fall 2019 semester and all of his classes are on-campus. Anwar got an on-campus job with Sodexo and with the Campus Bookstore. Anwar will work 10 hours per week with Sodexo and 15 hours per week with the Campus Bookstore.

• Is Anwar maintaining status with this employment?

ANSWER: NO STATUS

An international student is limited to a total of 20 hours/week FOR ALL JOBS on-campus while school is in session.
STATUS OR NO STATUS?

- Pragya is a first-year F-1 student studying Computer Science. She sees a job posting with an outside company for a position as an online math tutor. She assumes it’s fine for her to take this job because she will be doing the work from her residence hall room on campus.

- Is Pragya maintaining status with this employment?

ANSWER: NO STATUS

Working from home/online work for an outside company does not count as on-campus employment. To be considered on campus, the work must be for Binghamton University or an on-campus organization such as Sodexo food service. Any other work requires authorization in advance.
CONSEQUENCES OF DRINKING & DRIVING

- The legal drinking age in the United States is 21 years of age.
- If you are arrested and/or convicted of DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) or DUI (Driving Under Influence) your visa will most likely be revoked.
- If your visa is revoked this means that it is no longer valid and cannot be used for entering the U.S.
- If your visa has been revoked, you will be contacted directly by the Department of State (DOS) at the email address you included on your visa application. The ISSS Office will not be contacted. It is your responsibility to read and respond to any correspondence you receive from the DOS.
- It is highly recommended that if your visa is revoked, you come to the ISSS Office to meet with an immigration advisor.
- Do not drink and drive

TOBACCO POLICIES

- Binghamton University is a tobacco-free campus
- Smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco in all forms is prohibited on campus
- Beginning in mid-November, New York State will not allow the sale of cigarettes and e-cigarettes to anyone under age 21
UNLAWFUL PRESENCE

- F-1 and J-1 students who are in violation of their status may begin to accrue days of unlawful presence.
- Anyone who is unlawfully present in the United States could be barred from re-entering the US for three or ten years, depending on the amount of time they were unlawfully present.
- This could apply to students in situations including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Dropping below full time enrollment without getting authorization from ISSS
  - Forgetting to apply for an I-20 or DS-2019 extension before the end date
  - Working without authorization
  - Receiving a denial notification from USCIS for an OPT or other application

PUBLIC CHARGE

- Receiving government benefits while in the United States as an F-1 or J-1 student may now negatively impact your current or future immigration status.

- If you, or your dependents, receive government services (Medicaid, housing assistance, assistance with purchasing food) you could now be considered a public charge, which could result in:
  - Denial of F-1 or J-1 visa or renewal
  - Refusal to enter the U.S.
  - Denial of a future benefit or change of status, including OPT, H-1B, or permanent residency

- The ISSS Office advises you to not sign-up for or accept any government services without first talking with our office.
SOCIAL MEDIA

• The U.S. Department of State now asks for social media information as part of the visa application.

• Be mindful of any information you post on social media or other websites, especially as it relates to employment and internships.

BEWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

• Don’t give the caller any personal information! Even if they have some of your information do not give them any additional information.

• The real Social Security Administration, USCIS, ICE, IRS, etc. will not contact you via phone.

• Do not trust caller ID. Phone numbers can be easily cloned to look like official phone numbers.

• If you receive a phone call from an individual claiming to work for a U.S. government agency, ask for the caller’s name, badge ID, and phone number and ask to call them back. If they say you cannot call them back, hang up.

• They will probably tell you that your only opportunity to resolve the issue is at the time of the call and that you have to take action now. Hang up.
BEWARE OF PHONE AND EMAIL SCAMS

- University and government officials will not ask for personal or password information in unsolicited e-mail messages. You should NEVER respond to them or click on any links in the message. Report suspicious emails to the IT Help Desk at security@binghamton.edu.

- No Government agency will ever ask over the phone for payment in cash, gift cards, money order, PayPal, or other instant payment to make an immigration or tax issue go away.

- If a caller tells you to meet them somewhere to make a payment, you should hang up immediately. Never meet anyone who claims to be from a government agency to make a payment.

- If you ever receive a phone call like this, contact the ISSS office: 607-777-2510. If it is after office hours, contact University Police at their non-emergency phone: 607-777-2393.

SUMMARY: MAINTAINING IMMIGRATION STATUS

- Ensure that all immigration documents are valid.
- Maintain full-time enrollment.
- Obtain authorization before dropping below full-time registration.
- Apply for an extension BEFORE your I-20/DS-2019 program end date expires.
- For F-1 students, obtain authorization before participating in off-campus employment. For J-1 students, obtain authorization before participating in on-campus and off-campus employment.
- Report change of local address with the ISSS office within 10 days of moving.
- Keep all your immigration documents in a safe place. Keep ALL I-20s/DS-2019s that you have ever been issued. Do not throw them away!
HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ISSS?

Employment Questions:  
intl.work@binghamton.edu

Extending Your I-20 or DS-2019 Questions:  
intl.extend@binghamton.edu

Health Insurance Questions:  
intl.insure@binghamton.edu

All Other Questions:  
isss@binghamton.edu

Advising Walk-in Hours
• Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am-11:45am
• Wednesday & Thursday: 1:30pm-3:30pm