SPRING 2018
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
WELCOME TO
BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PRESENTATION AGENDA
- Immigration Documents
- Course Registration Requirements
- Employment

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

YOUR I-20/DS-2019 MUST BE VALID AT ALL TIMES!
- You must ensure that your I-20/DS-2019 is valid, the program dates are current, and the program information is correct.
- 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 (90 days, 60 days, 30 days).
DO YOU KNOW YOUR I-20 COMPLETION DATE?
See under Program of Study- “Program End Date”

TRAVEL SIGNATURE ON PAGE 2 OF I-20
• ISSS staff travel signature
• Travel signature is valid for 1 year

DS-2019 (J-1 STUDENTS)
You need to know your program end date!

TRAVEL SIGNATURE ON PAGE 1 OF DS-2019
• ISSS staff travel signature
• Travel signature is valid for 1 year
**STUDENT VISA TYPES**

- **F-1 Visa:**
  - A document that permits a foreign national to attend school full-time in U.S.

- **J-1 Visa:**
  - A J-1 Exchange Visitor visa permits a foreign national to participate in exchange programs that promote the sharing of knowledge and skills in education, arts and science.
  - A J-1 Student visa permits a foreign national to attend school temporarily or full-time in the U.S.

- **What about other visa types?**

**IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT: F-1 VISA**

**VISA INFORMATION**

- 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.

**PASSPORT INFORMATION**

- Your passport must be valid at least 6 months into the future at all times.
- Passport renewal procedures vary, depending on the 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.
I-94 RECORD INFORMATION

- The I-94 record is the Arrival / Departure Record, in electronic format, issued by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer to foreign visitors entering the United States.
- If you were admitted on an F-1 or J-1 visa, your I-94 record is marked "D/S" (Duration of Status).
- Every time you enter the U.S. in your F-1 or J-1 status, you need to print off 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 not correct, 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 the documents required at the time of employment in the United States

I-94 ELECTRONIC RECORD

HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN THE U.S.?

- As an F-1 visa holder, you may remain in the U.S. for 60 days after your program end date listed on your I-20.
- As a J-1 visa holder, you may remain in the U.S. for 30 days after your program end date listed on your DS-2019.

STATUS OR NO STATUS CASE STUDY

- Hemanth was told that he must leave the U.S. because his visa has expired! His I-20 and passport are valid and he is currently attending school full-time.
- Does Hemanth have status to remain in the U.S. and complete the semester, or must he leave the U.S. because his visa has expired?
**STATUS OR NO STATUS CASE STUDY**

**ANSWER: STATUS**

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

You need a valid visa when you **reenter** the U.S.

**STATUS OR NO STATUS CASE STUDY**

- Juwon is traveling to South Korea over the Winter 2019 break. His I-20 program end date is **December 31, 2021**. The travel signature on Juwon’s I-20 is dated **January 11, 2018**. Juwon will re-enter the U.S. on **January 15, 2019**. Juwon’s passport and visa are both valid.

- Does Juwon have all of the correct immigration documents to maintain his status and re-enter the U.S. for the Spring 2019 semester?

**ANSWER: NO STATUS**

Juwon 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.

**COURSE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Federal regulations require that students in F-1 and J-1 status be registered for a full-time course load each Fall and Spring semester until graduation.

- Failure to be registered 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).
COURSE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Minimum Full-Time Course Load</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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)
- Obtain prior authorization from the ISSS BEFORE dropping below a full course of study.

STATUS OR NO STATUS CASE STUDY

- Min, an undergraduate student, is taking 12 credits in the Spring 2018 semester. Four (4) credits are on-campus courses and eight (8) credits are online courses.
- Is Min maintaining status with this course registration schedule?
STATUS OR NO STATUS CASE STUDY

ANSWER: NO STATUS

Min can only take 1 course (4 credits) online to make up her full-time enrollment of 12 credits.

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

- Be aware of the different kinds of employment categories available to you.
- Be aware of the necessary procedures and processing times.
- When in doubt, ask the ISSS!
- Illegal employment is one of the most serious violations that you can make as an international student. Illegal 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, dormitory, dining facilities, laboratories and administrative offices.

- Off-Campus Employment
  - Curricular and Optional Practical Training
  - Must be lawfully 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

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

STATUS OR NO STATUS CASE STUDY

- Anwar is a new F-1 student for the Spring 2018 semester and he is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Economics. He is registered for 12 credits in the Spring 2018 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!

CONSEQUENCES OF DWI/DUI

- 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). 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 & DRIVE!
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. Updates can be completed on our website: Essential Forms—Administrative Updates—Address Change.
- 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?

- Use these e-mail addresses to get the answers!
  - Employment Questions: intl.work@binghamton.edu
  - Extending Your I-20 or DS-2019 Questions: intl.extend@binghamton.edu
  - Travel Questions: intl.travel@binghamton.edu
  - Health Insurance Questions: intl.insure@binghamton.edu
  - All Other Questions: isss@binghamton.edu

ADVISING WALK-IN HOURS

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