Welcome New and Returning F-1 & J-1 Students

Visa and Immigration Services (VIS) extends a warm welcome to all new and returning Stony Brook International Students! Whether you are a newly enrolled or a returning student, a new semester means new challenges and new goals; maybe even a new environment, new friends and a new culture. Whatever your situation, we encourage you to get involved, give your best, and have realistic expectations of yourself – transitioning into university life can be difficult and may take time – be patient.

VIS is here to advise and assist you with U.S. immigration matters and regulations. As part of our commitment to providing international students and scholars with the highest level of expertise in advising and immigration services, we’ve created this semi-annual International Student Newsletter to keep you informed on maintaining your status and upcoming events.

VIS ADVISORS CASELOAD

Visa and Immigration Services has reorganized the International Student Advisor caseloads. Caseloads are distributed by first letter of the family name. Check below to confirm your International Advisor.

Tricia Simons Figuero
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Meghan Behan
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Jasmina Gradistanac
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N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V

Jessica Raphael
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W | X | Y | Z
Tips for maintaining your F-1 status

ENROLLMENT WARNING

U.S. F-1 regulations require international students to enroll and complete a full course of study each fall and spring semester.

Undergraduates: 12 Credits
Graduate Levels G1 & G3: 12 Credits
Graduate Levels G2, G4, & G5: 9 Credits

You must complete the required number of credits each fall & spring semester to maintain your immigration status. “NR” (no record of attendance) and “W” (withdrawal) grades do not count toward full-time enrollment. Earning either of these grades may jeopardize your F-1 status and could result in the termination of your SEVIS record.

LAST SEMESTER OF STUDY

You may be eligible for part-time enrollment if during your last semester less than a full course load is needed to complete your program. To request permission to drop below full-time you must login to accessVIS and complete the Part-Time Enrollment form before the last day of the add/drop period. If part-time enrollment is authorized for this reason, you MUST graduate at the end of the Fall term - failure to do so could jeopardize your status.

IMPORTANT: Do not drop below full-time enrollment without first speaking with your International Student Advisor.

NEWS FOR F-2 DEPENDENTS

As per Department of Homeland Security, F-2 nonimmigrant spouses and children are now permitted to pursue degree seeking programs within the U.S. as long as their enrollment does not amount to what regulations define as full-time. If you have an F-2 who may be interested in studying, please make an appointment with your International Advisor to discuss this opportunity.

ON CAMPUS & OFF CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

No special authorization is required for F-1 students to work on-campus, as long as the employment doesn’t exceed 20 hours/week during the fall and spring semesters. If you require a Social Security Number to work, submit the SSN Authorization Request in accessVIS.

Off-campus employment requires CPT or OPT authorization prior to engaging in any form of paid or unpaid employment. Do not work until you have received permission in the form of an I-20 or Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

DECEMBER GRADUATE REQUESTING OPT

F-1 students graduating in December 2015 may begin applying for OPT in accessVIS on September 15th, 90 days prior to completing their academic program, but no later than February 1st. Requests for OPT must be received by USCIS no later than 60 days after you completed your academic program (2/16/2016). USCIS must receive your I-765, Request for OPT before your 60-day grace period ends. While your I-765 is pending with USCIS you are considered in status, even if your F-1 Visa has expired. Be sure to attend an OPT Workshop for more information.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

F-1 students are required to report any changes to their local (U.S.) and foreign address within 10 days of moving. If your address has changed, please submit the Address Update form in accessVIS.

TRAVEL SIGNATURE DAYS

VIS, Melville Library, Room E5310

October 5, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
October 13, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
October 22, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
November 3, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
November 13, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
November 20, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
November 24, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
November 30, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
December 4, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
December 11, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

CPT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wang Center

August 25, 2:30 p.m. - Lecture Hall 1
September 9, 2:30 p.m. - Lecture Hall 2

More dates to be scheduled

OPT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wang Center, Lecture Hall 1

September 2, 1 p.m.
September 10, 11 a.m.
September 15, 2:30 p.m.
September 23, 11:30 a.m.

More dates to be scheduled

IMMIGRATION OPTIONS AFTER GRADUATION

November 4 - Location to be Determined

Visit www.stonybrook.edu/visa for additional workshop dates & times!

FALL 2015 ADVISING HOURS

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:30—1:00 p.m.</td>
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