



IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

MAINTAINING STUDENT STATUS

- All new international students must “Check-In” with the International Center (IC) by providing photocopies of immigration documents and current U.S. address.
- Enroll full-time every quarter (at least 12 units) except summer quarter. (Consult an advisor at the IC if you are considering dropping below 12 units.)
- Make sure your I-20 (F-1 Students) or DS2019 (J-1 Students) remains valid (Check the “completion date” on item # 5 on I-20 and item# 3 on DS2019. Apply for an extension of your I-20 or DS2019 **before it expires.**)
- Keep your passport valid. Renew it 6 months prior to its expiration.
- Have appropriate authorization for employment and do not work for more than 20 hours per week while in school is in session.
- Inform the IC of your new address within 10 days of moving. IC will update SEVIS.
- Make sure the information on your I-20 is accurate. If you change your major, add a major or change your sources or amounts of funding, you need to apply at the IC for a new I-20.
- Maintaining status is **critical** to your legal stay in the United States. If you fall out of status, you lose F-1 benefits such as employment and eligibility to transfer to another school. You must apply for Reinstatement with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. If denied reinstatement, you could be given orders for immediate departure from the U.S.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE U.S.

- Have page 3 of your I-20 (F-1) or page 1 of DS2019 (J-1) signed by an advisor at the International Center before you leave. The signature is valid for 6 months.
- Verify that the information on your I-20 or DS2019 is still accurate.
- Check your U.S. (F-1 or J-1) entry visa to make sure it will be valid the day you return to the U.S. If you need to apply for a new visa, consult an IC advisor to find out what documents you will need to prepare. There is always risk involved when you apply for a visa as there is no guarantee that you will be granted one.
- Check to see if you need a visa to enter the country you plan to visit.
- Please note: Under certain circumstances, an F-1 student may reenter the U.S. with an expired visa if traveling to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean for 30 days or less. Consult the IC for more information.

EMPLOYMENT

- Employment opportunities for international students are strictly limited by government regulations.
- F-1 students may work on campus, up to 20 hours a week during the school year and up to 40 hours a week during vacation periods, such as summer quarter.
- Practical Training (Curricular and Optional) is available under very specific guidelines for students who have been in F-1 status for at least 9 months. Information is available on our web site at www.ic.uci.edu. Employment must be pre-authorized.
- J-1 students must have written authorization from the Responsible Office of their exchange-visitor program before beginning employment.
- Illegal employment is considered a serious violation of status.

Under new immigration regulations, there is **LITTLE ROOM FOR ERROR!**

CAUTION! NEVER assume anything about the immigration laws of the United States.
Check your information with the International Center.