Welcome to Purdue University

Maintaining Your F-1/J-1 Status

We are proud to support Purdue’s 8,000+ international students and scholars. Our office is dedicated to serving your immigration needs!

The Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS)
Schleman Hall  Room 136  Phone: 765-494-5770
Important Documents

- Passport
- U.S. Visa
- I-94 Card
- Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
  - I-20 or DS-2019
Passport

- Represents identity
  - Date of birth, home country, citizenship
- Always keep passport valid 6 months into the future
U.S. Visa

- Represents your entry permit to the U.S.
- Issued by U.S. Embassy/Consulate
- Your visa is like a movie ticket; it is for entry only
- You can remain legally in the U.S. on an expired visa
- If you travel outside the U.S., you will need a valid visa to re-enter the U.S.
QUIZ TIME!

Can my F-1 or J-1 visa expire while I’m in the U.S.?

A. No, you must keep it valid at all times.

B. Yes, your visa can expire and you can remain in the U.S. if you’ve maintained your status.

C. Maybe, it’s different for everyone.
What’s the Difference Between Visa & Status?

- Your VISA is only for entry into the U.S.
- STATUS is your immigration standing inside the U.S.
- You may remain in the U.S. as long as you maintain your lawful STATUS
- Your STATUS is still valid even if your VISA expires while you are in U.S.
I-94 Card

- USCIS Admission/Departure Record
- Represents your status inside the U.S.
  - Shows your legal entry into the U.S.
  - Shows your **Duration of Status (D/S)** in the U.S.
Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

- Represents program eligibility
- COE issued by school/program sponsor
- Issued via SEVIS System
  - I-20 for F students
  - DS-2019 for J students
- Adjudicated (stamped) by USCBP at port of entry
Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

- SEVIS is a U.S. Government computerized system
- Maintains & manages data about F and J students
- Federal law mandates specific information be reported to SEVIS
Maintaining Your Status

- Enrollment
- Change of Major or Field of Study
- Change in Funding
- Change of Address
- Program Completion
- Travel Outside the U.S.
- Change in Educational Level
- University Transfer
Enrollment

- Enroll full-time each fall and spring semester

- How many credit hours is full-time at Purdue?
  - Undergraduates: 12 hours
  - Graduates: 8 hours
  - Graduates holding assistantships: 6 hours

  * The above credit hours are the minimum for immigration, however some academic departments may require more.
  * Only one 3-credit hour online course per semester can count toward full-time enrollment

- Summer is considered a vacation period with optional enrollment, unless your it is your first or final semester

- 12-month assistantship positions may require summer enrollment (confirm with academic department)
Enrollment (cont’d)

- You must COMPLETE a full course of study each semester.

- Incomplete courses MUST be completed if the credit hours count toward your full-time enrollment.

- Exceptions to full course of study require prior ISS authorization.
  - Reduced Course Load (RCL) allows you to take less than full-time credits for one semester.

* Failure to follow the above will result in a violation of status.
If I’m going to fail one of my classes, can I drop the class rather than hurt my grade point average?

A. Yes, you should only accept As.

B. No, you’re never allowed to drop classes.

C. Maybe, it depends on how many credits you’re registered for.
Change of Major or Field of Study

- Your major is listed on your COE
- You must keep this up-to-date at all times

* You should automatically receive an updated COE within 30 days of the date the change takes effect
  - If you do not, please contact ISS
Change of Funding

- Your source of funding is listed on your COE
- You must keep this up-to-date at all times
- If your funding needs updated, you must submit original financial documents
QUIZ TIME!

I just received a graduate assistantship. What should I do?

A. Take your offer letter to ISS.

B. Leap for joy! Then take your offer letter to ISS.

C. Go celebrate with friends! ISS doesn’t need to know about your assistantship.
Change of Address

- Change of address and phone number
- Update address in MyPurdue within **10 days** of the change
Change of Educational Level

- New COE Required for New Program/Degree Level
- Request a new I-20/DS-2019 before you begin a new program or degree level.

Bachelors to Masters  Doctorate to Masters
# Transferring Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer In to Purdue</th>
<th>Transfer Out of Purdue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Check-in with ISS within 15 days of the semester start date</td>
<td>- Complete the ISS SEVIS “Release” Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Receive a “Transfer Completed” I-20 after 30 days</td>
<td>- Submit a copy of your admission letter</td>
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Do not forget to transfer your I-20!
Program Completion

- Your Status is valid until the completion date of your COE.
- If you will NOT complete your program by that date, **it is your responsibility** to extend your document **before the end date**.
- If you WILL complete your program by that date:
  - F-1 students have a 60 day grace period after program completion.
  - J-1 students have a 30 day grace period after program completion.
  - Grace period options: Begin a new program, Apply for employment authorization, Adjust your Status, Depart the U.S.
Travel Outside the U.S.

- You MUST have a valid travel signature on your COE
  - Generally valid for 1 year
  - Located on page 3 of the I-20
  - Located on page 1 of the DS-2019

- Bring the following to ISS to receive a new travel signature BEFORE you leave the U.S.:
  - COE
  - Passport
  - Visa
  - I-94 card

IMPORTANT: If you complete your degree or become ineligible to register at Purdue, do **NOT** return to the U.S. with your Purdue COE even if the date on the document has not expired.
How to Update Your COE

- Submit the “Student Request Form” to ISS. Form also available on ISS website
- Required materials for each type of request listed on page 2
- All requests take 10 business days
On-Campus Employment

- May work up to 20 hours per week on-campus while school is in session
  - Assistantships count toward this total
- May work up to 40 hours per week during the summer and university breaks if registration not required
- F-1 Students
  - Only work on-campus if you are “in status”
- J-1 Students
  - ISS authorization is required before working on-campus
- Transfer students cannot begin working until they have received their Purdue I-20
QUIZ TIME!

Can I work at McDonald’s since they’re located on-campus?

A. Yes, McDonald’s is an acceptable employer.

B. No, your paycheck must come from Purdue-West Lafayette.

C. Maybe, it depends on how often you want to smell those french fries!
Off-Campus Employment

- Never work off-campus without proper authorization (not even during summer breaks or for required courses)

- F-1 Students
  - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  - Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- J-1 Students
  - Academic Training (AT)

* USCIS has “zero tolerance” for unauthorized work!
U.S. Laws

- You are responsible for abiding by all U.S. laws
- Failure to do so may cause you to:
  - Fall out of status, lose your ability to study and work in the U.S., be expelled from Purdue, be ineligible to re-enter the U.S.
- Examples of laws to be familiar with:
  - Drinking (public intoxication, open container)
  - Driving requirements (US drivers license within 60 days)
  - Domestic violence
  - Illicit drugs
  - Physical violence
  - Sexual harassment
  - Theft

**If you are charged with anything do not just plead guilty, consult with a licensed attorney knowledgeable in both immigration and criminal law.**
New Purdue University Policy

There are 21 designated areas around campus where smoking is allowed.

If you need to know where the designated smoking areas are located, please pick up a map at the welcome table in the last room.
Dependents

- Dependents include spouse and children
  - Immigration documents must be maintained
  - Overseas travel requires travel signature prior to departure

- F-2 dependents:
  - Only recreational study allowed
  - *No courses at Purdue qualify for F-2 study*
  - No employment

- J-2 dependents:
  - Non-degree or degree-seeking study allowed
  - Prior USCIS authorization required for employment
Up-To-Date Information

- *ISS Announcement* e-mails sent to your Purdue account
- Walk-in hours available
  - MTWF: 9:00am – 11:30am
  - MTWRF: 1:30pm – 4:00pm
- Appointments available (schedule 24 hours prior)
- Immigration Counselor available by phone: 765-494-5770
- ISS web site: [http://www.iss.purdue.edu](http://www.iss.purdue.edu)
- ISS Facebook page
Purdue University

We wish you a successful first semester at Purdue!

The Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS)
Schleman Hall  Room 136   Phone: 765-494-5770
Global Fair @ the Fountain

Friday August 17, 2012
5:30pm - 8:30pm
Purdue Mall

All new International students and their families are cordially invited to attend the Global Fair @ the Fountain. Be sure to bring your invitation from WOW!

5:30 – **Food**
A Midwestern BBQ meal will be served on a first come, first served basis. (Vegetarian food available. To-go boxes provided for those observing Ramadan.)

5:30 – 8:30 – **Games and Fun**
Play fun and challenging games of skill to win prizes. Get your picture taken with the Big Bass Drum and the Xtra Special.

7:00 - **Welcome and Special Performance**
Hear an inspirational welcome message and enjoy a special appearance from the Purdue Twirlers