



### **AGENDA**

### Today we will be discussing the following:

- Roles and Functions of the Office of International Student & Scholar Services
- Graduate student topics:
  - Visa processing times & Admissions deadlines
  - English proficiency requirements for F & J students and scholars
  - Employment, including CPT & OPT
  - Upcoming trends and news
- Resources
- Training & Outreach

# Role of The Office of International Student & Scholar Services

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) is the primary resource on the University of Utah campus for incoming international students and scholars. Our staff includes program coordinators, full-time advisors, office staff, and peer advisors.

F-1 Students

Degree seeking foreign nationals

Bachelor, Master, and PhD level students

J-1 Students & Scholars

Foreign nationals that are researchers, instructors, post doctoral appointees and fellows, exchange students, student interns

Diverse professional experience-From Bachelor's to PhD holders, professors



## **DHS**

Department of Homeland Security

**CBP** 

Customs

and Border

Protection

#### **USCIS**

U.S. Citizenship and **Immigration** Services

#### **ICE**

**Immigration** and Custom Enforcement

#### **SEVP**

Visitor Program (F-1) was implemented to track and monitor schools and programs, students, exchange visitors, and their dependents throughout the duration of approved participation in the U.S. education

### **CFR** The Code of Federal

# Regulations

**SEVIS** 

Student and Exchange

Visitor Information

System requires all schools

and related academic

institutions to submit and regularly update student

information electronically

in a central database that

can be accessed by

the government.

F-1, J-1

#### **EVP**

Exchange Visitor Program (J-1)

DOS Department of State

#### ISSS

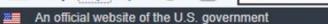
International Student and Scholar Services represents the University of Utah to the DOS, DHS, CBP, ICE, USCIS, SEVP, foreign embassies, and international sponsoring organizations.

Student and Exchange system.

What Happens if the ISSS fails to comply with the SEVIS regulations?

The DHS is required to audit the University's compliance with these new requirements every two years. Failure to comply with the federal regulations could result in the loss of the University's ability to accept international students.







Student & Exchange Visitor Information System 1-800-892-4829 SEVIS Help Desk

#### WARNING

When using SEVIS, providing materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject you to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C.1001. Other possible criminal and civil violations may also be applicable.

CONTINUE

LOG OUT

## How can we help you AND your students?

Provide resources
related to immigration
regulation, policy guides,
and e-form requests
through ISSS
website and handouts

Offer F-1 and J-1 students and scholars in-depth immigration advising via in person appointments, phone, and email

Host various
workshops and
information sessions
for students, staff,
and faculty

Report, process, and accurately update thousands of official immigration records and documents necessary for things such as attendance, travel, work authorization, and much more

Academic Reduced **Course Load** 

**Curricular Practical Training** 

I-20 Extension Request

**Last Semester** 

Reinstatement Request for extension purposes





Submit when asking for permission to drop below full-time credits for academic reasons



Submit when requesting permission to engage in off campus employment related to their academic program



Submit to extend the length of their academic program



Submit to notify ISSS of their final semester



Submit when applying to reinstate their visa status and may also need an extension of program end date

Verify Academic situation



Verify the curricular tie between the employment and **CPT** credit



Verify the needed enrollment to complete the program and projected graduation



Verify last semester of enrollment needed to complete the program



Verify projected final semester



## International Graduate Student Topics

English Proficiency

Travel

Employment

Visa Processing Times & Delays

App Deadlines

Resources

## English Proficiency Requirements

#### F-1 Students

- Students submit test score
- Tests accepted:
  - TOEFL, minimum score 80
  - IELTS, minimum score 6.5
- English proficiency waiver
  - Degree from waived Englishspeaking country within 2 years
  - Petition

### J-1 Students and Scholars

- Students submit test score
- Tests accepted:
  - TOEFL, minimum score 80
  - IELTS, minimum score 6.5
- Scholars may elect to take English 3 test
  - Only English assessment created specifically for exchange visitors and scholars

### **TRAVEL**

# Students must ensure their documents are up to date when traveling and re-entering the U.S.

I-20 must be signed for travel within the last 6 months.

New signatures take 1 business day to process

Passport must be valid 6 months beyond student's re-entry date to the U.S.

Visa must be valid for re-entry or you must request a new visa in your home country

New I-94 should be printed upon each arrival in the U.S.

For information about travel to Mexico, Canada, or the Caribbean, students are advised to make an appointment with an ISSS advisor.

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement		I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1653-0038		
SEVIS ID: NOOO4	, ,	NAME:	John Doe Sm	ith
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		ТҮРЕ		
EMPLOYMENT START DATE		EMPLOYMENT END DATE		
EMPLOYER NAME		EMPLOYER LOCATION		
COMMENTS				
CHANGE OF STATUS/	CAP-GAP EXTENSION			
REQUESTED VISA TYPE REQUEST/PETITION STA		US RECEIPT NUMBER BENEFIT START DATE/REQUEST DA		TART DATE/REQUEST DATE
EVENT HISTORY				
EVENT NAME		EVENT DATE		
OTHER AUTHORIZAT	TONS			
AUTHORIZATION		START DATE	START DATE END DATE	
TRAVEL ENDORSEMI	ENT			
This page when properly endorse certification signature is valid fo		student to attend the same school aff	er a temporary absence from	the United States. Each
SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
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ICE Form I-20 A-B (12/2016)

### Employment for International Students

### ON CAMPUS: Allowed with permission from ISSS

- F-1 visa status allows for limited employment
- Must be secondary to coursework
- Students request a Work Authorization Letter
- Students will need to provide a letter from department or office

## **Curricular Practical Training** (CPT)

CPT is used for integral internship opportunities related to a student's program.

Students must attend school for two full-time semesters before eligible and maintain "Legal F-1 Status".

Must be approved by **Department** and **ISSS**.

CPT requires
An internship class registration.

Must have a "job offer" that is related to your program of study.

### VS

### Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OPT offers additional practical training options, typically after graduation.

Students must attend school for two full-time semesters before eligible and maintain "Legal F-1 Status".

Approval comes from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), but students must work with ISSS in order to apply.



## Visa Processing Times & Delays

- The most important consideration when determining if a student or scholar will arrive by the start of classes or semester
- Depending on country of citizenship for students & scholars
- Processing is typically quicker for students & scholars from Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and most Western European countries
- Expect longer delays in Russia, many Asian countries, South American countries, and African countries

### New Trends:

- Visa delays and long processing times in India
- Requests for additional information at visa appointments

### Graduate Application Deadlines

#### Office of Admissions Deadlines

- Final Deadlines for New Applicants
  - Spring 2020: January 03, 2020
  - Summer 2020: May 08, 2020
  - Fall 2020: August 21, 2020
- Final Deadlines for Readmits
  - Spring 2020: January 10, 2020
  - Summer 2020: May 15, 2020
  - Fall 2020: August 28, 2020

### Academic Departments

- Set own deadlines
- Encourage earlier deadlines for international graduate applicants
- Extra time allows for foreign transcripts to arrive and accounts for additional time for visa appointments and visa processing delays

### REMEMBER:

The start date of the semester is critical to a student's immigration record, so setting early deadlines for international students is important so that the students can get into the United States safely and ON TIME.

- Students can arrive up to 30 days prior to the start of the semester
- Start date listed on the student's I-20 "Certificate of Eligibility" is the **First day of classes**
- Students arriving in the U.S. significantly after the start date may encounter issues at the border

## Resources

- Our website: https://ic.utah.edu
  - Information about policies for students and exchange visitors
  - I-Start portal access and E-Forms
  - Immigration news and events
- Office of International Student & Scholar Services: CONTACT US!
  - Students can make appointments to meet with international advisors
  - · Academic departments can reach out to us with questions, or request training

#### • E-Forms

- Available through iStart on our website
- Students can request changes to their immigration record, complete the on-campus Work Authorization Request form, add dependents, apply for CPT, and more
- On & Off Campus Resource Guides: copies available
- ISSS has a Counseling Intern: students can meet with our intern to discuss any mental health issues or concerns confidentially



**EXCHANGE VISITORS** 

ORIENTATION

**POLICIES & FORMS** 

**NEWS & EVENTS** 



Home

**ISTART** LOGIN

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

INTERNATIONAL **ADMISSIONS** 



International Student and Scholar Services



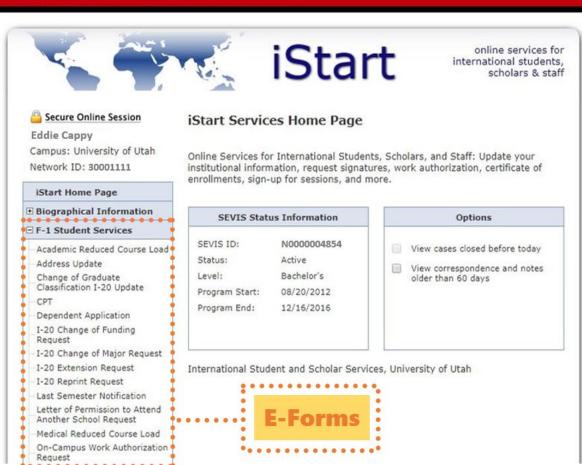
**STUDENTS** Information for international students on



**SCHOLARS &** RESEARCHERS

# An E-Form is a paperless, electronic application accessed through istart to request a benefit such as a work authorization letter, add dependent request, CPT, etc.







**iStart** 

online services for international students, scholars & staff

#### Welcome to the iStart Services Login Page

Technology is key to our proactive approach. Our information services and experienced staff enable efficient management of student and scholar data, and our portal provides individualized, web-based services. The following are the types of online services available for international students, scholars, & staff.

#### Full Client Services for Students & Scholars

Secure services requiring login with your institutional Network ID and password. These services include:

- 1. View and update information on file
- Submit electronic form (e-form) requests for travel signatures, reduced course load authorization, program extensions, etc.
- Access alerts and notes on file that require action in order to maintain legal status



#### Th

#### **Limited Services for Students & Scholars**

Limited services requiring login with your University ID number and date of birth. These services include:

- Limited student services like registration for orientation or SEVIS transfer-in.
- Limited initial intake forms for J-1 scholars or H-1B employees.

These services will NOT provide all the functionality of the full client services.

Limited Services

The following are additional services:

International Student & Scholar Statistical Reports

Anonymous Feedback (surveys, evaluations, etc)

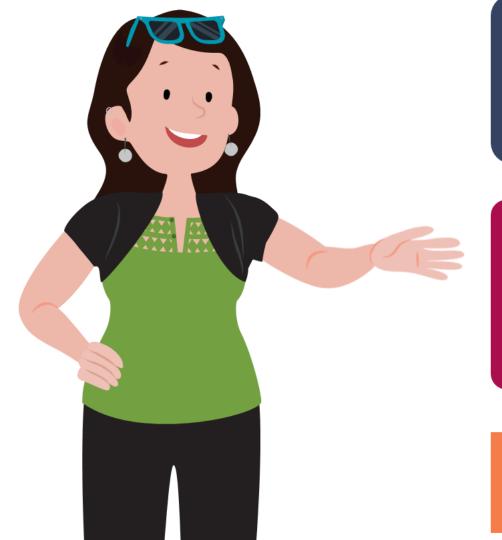
Administrative Services for University Departments

# Training & Outreach

- Sign up for the ISSS Department Monthly Newsletter
- Submit department or student information session requests, and we will provide personalized trainings on a myriad of topics
- Surveys are sent out at the end of every semester to gather feedback
- Monthly trainings for students, faculty, and staff are offered throughout the academic year

### **ISSS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER**





We provide a monthly newsletter to departments with updates from ISSS

To sign up to receive this newsletter, please fill out the form at the link below:

Enter your name and email address below to sign up for the International Student and Scholar Services newsletter. Each month you'll receive news and information related to advising international students. You may unsubscribe at any time.

mail Address
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epartment Name
Subscribe to list

https://tinyurl.com/ISSSnews

### **Holistic Advising: Advocating for International Students**

### Referring to ISSS is just the beginning!



Submit department /student information session requests to international@utah.edu

# Questions?



