F-1 Immigration Workshop

International Student & Scholar Services, IPO

Fall 2021
Reminders:

• This session will be recorded and posted to Moodle
• All students will be muted during this presentation
• Questions should be submitted through the Q & A function
• Moderators will review the questions throughout the presentation and present as many as possible at the end
• Do NOT put personal details in your question. Personal, in-depth questions should be sent to your assigned IPO advisor
• If your question is not answered, please email your IPO advisor or attend our Advising hours (listed on our homepage)
International Students & Scholars Staff

Ken Reade, Director
Naoko Ishida, Associate Director, Employment Visa Specialist
Pamela Dutta, Associate Director for Student Success
S. Nichole Hunley, Scholar and Student Advisor
Katie Ahlman, Student and Scholar Advisor
Beryl Tang, Administrative Assistant
Claire Novotny, Undergraduate Exchange Coordinator
UMass International Population

- ~3900 students
  - non-degree, exchange, graduate, and undergraduates
- ~550 Research scholars (J)
  - post docs, visiting scholars, lecturers, research fellows
- Additional ~150 international employees
  - professors, lecturers, professional staff

From over 120 countries
Who’s my Advisor at the IPO?

- Nichole Hunley (shunley@umass.edu):
  - College of Education
  - College of Information and Computer Science
  - College of Nursing
  - College of Public Health and Health Sciences
  - College of Social Behavioral Sciences

- Katie Ahlman (kahlman@umass.edu):
  - College of Natural Sciences
  - College of Engineering
  - Isenberg School of Management

- Naoko Ishida (nishida@umass.edu):
  - College of Humanities and Fine Arts
  - Fulbright/LAUSPAU students

- Claire Novotny (cnovotny@umass.edu)
  - All Exchange Students

Fall 2021 Advising Hours

Days/Times/Location will be posted on our website soon. We will have Virtual Advising and Chat Advising to limit crowds in our building.

[https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/staff](https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/staff)
Maintaining Your Status: SEVIS REGISTRATION

New Student Check-in:

You will receive an email from the IPO with subject line: *UMass Amherst Fall 2021 New Student Check-In*

*(If you have not received it by September 1, please contact our office right away!)*
Top Things to Remember

• Visa vs Status
• Maintaining Your Status
• Travel
• Follow U.S. Laws
• Scams
• Who to Ask for Help
Maintaining Your Status: Changes

- It is YOUR responsibility to notify the IPO for any change in major, degree program, extension of studies, completion of studies date. Termination of Studies (including leave of absence). Contact your IPO advisor if you are thinking of this option.

- Extension of studies or early completion of studies (YOUR responsibility to request the extension).

- Name change (use I-20 Change Request E-Form found on F-1 Maintaining Status page).

- Address changes (Update in SPIRE).

See our Maintaining your F-1 Status website.
Maintaining Your Status: Changes

• Change of mailing address MUST be updated in SPIRE before we can register your immigration compliance

• Please note proper U.S. address format:
  
  123 Main St., Apt. 45
  Amherst, MA 01003

*Failure to update your address in SPIRE upon arrival will result in a delay of your immigration compliance registration.
Visa vs. Status

• Your visa is an ENTRY document ONLY —you are *eligible* to enter the U.S. but CBP can still refuse entry
  - Once you are in the U.S., it has little impact
  - Does NOT indicate how long you can stay
  - Permission to enter is only between date of issue and date of expiration for specified number of entries

• Your visa CAN expire while in the U.S. and this is ok!!!!
Maintaining Your Status: I-20 Certificate of Eligibility

- Program start & end dates (must always be valid and accurate)
- Official graduation date vs. I-20 program end date
- Can stay in the U.S. for 60 days beyond I-20 end date
- Immigration Status = I-20 form (not visa)
Visa vs Status: I-94 record
International Travel & Re-entry to U.S.

- Valid I-20 with valid travel signature from an IPO advisor (travel signatures are valid for 1-year from date of signature)
- Valid F-1 visa stamp in your passport
- Valid passport
Domestic Travel Within the U.S.

• If you are traveling within the U.S., you should keep copies of all of your visa documents on your phone

• Include your F-1 visa stamp, passport photo page, I-20, and I-94 record

• Passport or valid U.S. state driver’s license is required for domestic air, train, and bus travel

• Keep in mind quarantine/testing requirements for UMass if you are not vaccinated
Maintaining Your Status: Full-time Enrollment

• Full-time = 12 undergraduate/9 graduate credits

• Limited exceptions with advance IPO permission:
  – First semester - language/learning problems
  – Medical condition - requires letter from UHS or CCPH
  – Graduate students - some flexibility-research, thesis/dissertation: must consult academic advisor
  – Final semester - less than full-time permitted

• Students who were NOT in active F-1 status as of March 9, 2020, need at least one in person class to be in compliance. Failure to do so may jeopardize your immigration status.
Maintaining Your Status: Employment

• 20-hours/week **maximum on-campus** employment during academic session/semester
  – NOTE: Graduate students with assistantships: **total** 20-hour amount counts as “employment”

• 40-hours/week **on-campus** employment during break periods (i.e. December, Spring Break, Summer)

• Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

• Optional Practical Training (OPT)

• Dependents (F-2) may study part-time but not work while in the U.S.

• F-1 Employment website: [https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/f-1-student-employment](https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/f-1-student-employment)
SOCIAL SECURITY CARD/NUMBER

Most SSN offices are currently closed and it is difficult to apply for one at this time. You are eligible to begin working without an SSN.

Refer to the IPO website for documents required:
https://www.umass.edu/ipo/node/18180

Note: you will need an IPO signature on your employment letter to apply for an SSN. This is done electronically in an e-form noted on the link above.
Follow all U.S. Laws

• Have an **RMV approved** (foreign or U.S.) driver’s license
• Drinking Age for Alcohol = Under 21
  − Arrest = visa revocation
• Drugs = Illegal = visa revocation
• File **Taxes**
• Remember…. 
Legal in Massachusetts (and a few other states)
... but not if you are on a student visa!

https://www.umass.edu/marijuana/

Non-U.S. Citizens are under Federal Law and the U.S. government states marijuana is still illegal.
Scams

• Multiple scams are targeting international students nationwide

• Contacting both mobile phone numbers and e-mail
  – Caller ID looks like government agency (“Homeland Security,” “ICE,” “FBI” etc.)

• Will use fear or intimidation: Threaten family members or claim you will be deported

• Will try to keep you on the phone
Common Scams

- Deportation
- Owing back taxes (IRS)
- Immigration violations (Homeland Security)
- You won a scholarship!
- International Student Tax
- Social Security Number Fraud
- Threaten Family Members and Request Ransom
- Job Offers
- Rental Deposit Fraud
Scams: What to Do

• Federal U.S. agencies will never request money or information (including Social Security number) over the phone or e-mail
  – They would never ask for gift cards or prepaid cards
• Hang up or do not open e-mail attachments
• Report to UMass PD, 413-545-2121
• Report to the IPO
Immunization Requirements at University Health Services for International Students

Who: Any student who received an email stating that their records are not submitted or they are incomplete

How: Upload your immunization records in the UHS Patient Portal.

Contact UHS with questions: https://www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations
Required immunizations

• Required by Massachusetts law:
  – Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis)
  – 2 doses Measles, mumps, rubella (very important!!)
  – 3 doses Hepatitis B
  – Meningitis ACYW (or signed waiver)
  – 2 doses Varicella (Chicken Pox)
  – HPV vaccine Offered

• Get the state guidelines: [www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations](http://www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations)
COVID Vaccine and Quarantine Requirements

• UHS is overseeing all vaccine requirements for COVID-19. Please contact them with questions.

• All students are required to be vaccinated or follow UMass testing protocols until you are vaccinated.

• If you did not meet the vaccine requirement deadline, contact UHS: https://www.umass.edu/uhs/covid-19-vaccine.

• Students needing quarantine housing should contact quarantine@umass.edu. There is limited quarantine housing.

*Please be patient while you wait for a response. These two offices are overwhelmed with requests right now.
Ask the IPO for Help

• **Always** ask the IPO or your IPO advisor if you have questions: www.umass.edu/ipo/iss

• **Do not** rely on Facebook, Google, blogs, or “My Friend Said…” *Every situation is different!*

• **Remember to frequently check your UMass e-mail** (sometimes our emails go to the Junk Folder)

• Remember to update your address and emergency contact information in SPIRE.

• IPO is located at 70 Butterfield Terrace (Pleasant & Thatcher streets)
The IPO advising schedule will be posted on our home page:

https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss.
Questions?

Please ask your question in Zoom’s Q & A function for the moderators to review. Please note that not all questions will be answered and some may have been answered live already. The list of IPO advisors will be provided at the end of this presentation.

*Remember that this session is being recorded.
Who’s my Advisor at the IPO?

- Nichole Hunley (shunley@umass.edu)
  » College of Education
  » College of Information and Computer Science
  » College of Nursing
  » School of Public Health and Health Sciences
  » College of Social Behavioral Sciences
- Katie Ahlman (kahlman@umass.edu)
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- Naoko Ishida (nishida@umass.edu)
  » College of Humanities and Fine Arts
  » Fulbright/LAUSPAU students
- Claire Novotny (cnovotny@umass.edu)
  » ALL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/ipo-advisors

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THANK YOU &
WELCOME TO UMASS!!