F-1 Immigration Workshop

UMass Amherst
International Programs Office

Spring 2022
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
  - Most questions will be answered within the presentation
- Moderators will review the questions throughout the presentation to 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

Monica Bun, IPO Receptionist
Claire Novotny, Undergraduate Exchange Coordinator
Beryl Tang, Administrative Assistant
Tricia Whiting, Student and Scholar Advisor
Katie Ahlman, Student and Scholar Advisor
Naoko Ishida, Associate Director, Employment Visa Specialist
Ken Reade, Director
UMass International Population

- ~3900 students
  - non-degree, exchange, graduate, and undergraduates
- ~350 Research scholars
  - 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?

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

- Tricia Whiting (pwhiting@umass.edu)
  - College of Education
  - College of Nursing
  - College of Public Health and Health Sciences

- Naoko Ishida (nishida@umass.edu)
  - College of Humanities and Fine Arts
  - College of Social Behavioral Sciences
  - College of Information and Computer Science (Bachelors, Phds, Other: MS/PhD)
  - Fulbright/LAUSPAU students

- Ken Reade (kjreade@umass.edu)
  - College of Information and Computer Science (Master’s students)

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

Spring 2022
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/ipo-advisors
Top Things to Remember

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

New Student Check-in:

You will receive an email from the IPO with subject line: *UMass Amherst Spring 2022 New Student Check-In*

(If you have not received this email by February 1, please contact our office right away!)
Maintaining Your Status: Changes

- It is YOUR responsibility to notify the IPO of any I-20 changes in major, dropping below full-time, etc.
- 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)
- If planning to take a leave of absence, contact your IPO advisor before taking this option.
- 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.
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)
I-94 record

go here: I94 - Official Website (dhs.gov), click on “Get Most Recent I-94 at the top, agree, then input personal details
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
• REMEMBER: you can leave the U.S. without a travel signature!
• REMEMBER: travel signature requests are done ONLINE!
• For more info, see our travel page: International Students and Scholars | F-1 Student Travel (umass.edu).
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
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. Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break)

• 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

Refer to the IPO website for documents required: International Students and Scholars | Social Security and ITIN (umass.edu)

REMEMBER! You do not need to visit the IPO in person to get your employment letter signed. This is done entirely online using the link above.

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

• Please see UMass' COVID website for more information: UMass Amherst Spring 2022 : UMass Amherst.

• Note: The IPO cannot answer questions about COVID testing, vaccinations, and UMass health protocols as we are not health professionals.
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.
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THANK YOU &
WELCOME TO UMASS!!