DRIVER’S LICENSES, CARS, ETC…
Will you be here for more than 1 year and want to drive and/or purchase a car?

You should apply for a Massachusetts driver’s license*. Individuals with F1, F2, J1, and J2 visas (except for those under the age of 18) are eligible to apply for a driver’s license at the REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES (RMV) – 116 Pleasant Street, Easthampton. Contact the RMV directly with any questions you may have regarding driver’s licenses, application procedures, car registrations, etc (phone: 1-800-858-3926, website: www.marmv.com

To obtain a Massachusetts driver’s license the RMV requires separate original identification to prove items 1 through 3: NOTE you MUST have a visa document that is valid for at least one year, from the date of your appointment, in order to obtain your license.

1. SIGNATURE (e.g. Cancelled bank check - dated within 60 days - or Lease agreement or Employment Authorization card)

2. MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENCE (e.g. Bank statement or Lease agreement or Utility bill or cancelled bank check)

3. BIRTH DATE (e.g. I-797 Notice of Action from USCIS or Birth certificate that is notarized, and if not in English, is translated and notarized by the UMASS Translation Center or a bilingual (in that language) U.S. notary or Certificate of Attendance from IPO.)

Please visit the following site for a full listing for acceptable identifications for the above items: http://www.massrmv.com/LicenseandID/AcceptableIdentificationDocuments.aspx

4. A verifiable Social Security Number or a Denial Notice** issued by the SSA with your I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card (print your I-94 here: www.cbp.gov/I94), and non-U.S. passport; you cannot use these as identification of the above items.

*USING A FOREIGN LICENSE? The Registry indicates that “if a student has a home country license, he or she is allowed to drive in Massachusetts for one year from the date of entry” if the license was issued by a country which signed the Road Traffic Convention of 1949. Check the RMV website for a full list of countries which are signatories to this agreement. If your home country license is not in English, you should also carry either an International Driver’s License or a notarized English translation.

**DENIAL NOTICE: For those people - e.g. persons with F-2 visas - not eligible for a Social Security Number, you must still APPLY for a Social Security Number and ask for a denial notice from Social Security Administration. The denial notice must be submitted to the Registry instead of the Social Security Number AND BE DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF SUBMISSION.