F-1 Immigration Workshop

Fall 2022

• Schedules
• Scavenger Hunt (win prizes!)
• Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @umassipo for important updates
International Students & Scholars Staff

Beryl Tang, Administrative Assistant
Claire Novotny, Undergraduate Exchange Coordinator
Katie Ahlman, Student and Scholar Advisor
Naoko Ishida, Associate Director, Employment Visa Specialist
Ken Reade, Director
Who’s my IPO Advisor?

• 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
  – College of Social Behavioral Sciences
  – College of Information and Computer Science (Bachelors, PhDs, Other: MS/PhD)
  – College of Education
  – College of Nursing
  – College of Public Health and Health Sciences

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

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

Fall 2022 Advising Hours

Days/Times/Location will be posted on our website. Virtual, In-Person, and Chat available depending on day:
https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss
UMass International Population

- ~3500 students
  - non-degree, exchange, graduate, and undergraduates
- ~800 on OPT/STEM OPT
- ~350 Research Scholars
  - Post-docs, visiting scholars, lecturers, research fellows
- Additional ~100 international employees
  - professors, lecturers, professional staff

From over 120 countries
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 Fall 2022 New Student Check-In*

(If you have not received this email by September 6, 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 finalizing 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 (New Student Check In).
Maintaining Your Status: I-20 Certificate of Eligibility

- Program start & end dates (must always be valid and accurate)
- 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: [I-94 - Official Website (dhs.gov)](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, CCPH, or Disability Services
  – Graduate students - some flexibility - research, thesis/dissertation: must consult academic advisor and get a full-time override
  – Final semester - less than full-time permitted
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. You must also have completed the New Student Check In prior to submitting your SSN Letter Request.

You may begin to work and get paid by UMass while waiting for your SSN card.
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
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 or UMass:**
  - 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)
  - COVID
  - HPV vaccine Offered

- **Get the state guidelines:** [www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations](http://www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations)
Ask the IPO for Help

- Check our website or QR code—it can answer 99% of your questions at 2 a.m. or 2 p.m.!
  https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss

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

- Ask the IPO or your IPO advisor if you have questions:
  https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/ipo-advisors.

- 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.
The IPO advising schedule will be posted on our home page:

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  - Fulbright/LAUSPAU students

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THANK YOU & WELCOME TO UMASS!!

- Schedules
- Scavenger Hunt (win prizes!)
- Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @umassipo for important updates
- Campus Map