J-1 Immigration Workshop
Fall 2022

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

Claire Novotny, Exchange Advisor
Beryl Tang, Administrative Assistant
Katie Ahlman, Student and Scholar Advisor
Naoko Ishida, Associate Director, Employment Visa Specialist
Ken Reade, Director

Contact Information for all IPO Staff:
70 Butterfield Terrace, Amherst MA 01003
Tel: 413-545-2710
https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/ipo-advisors
Who’s my IPO Advisor?

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

- All other J-1 students:
  - 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)

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/ipointiss
UMass International Population

- ~3900 students
  - non-degree, exchange, graduate and undergraduates
- ~800 on OPT/STEM OPT
- ~350 Research Scholars
  - Post-docs, visiting scholars, lecturers, research fellows
- Additional ~150 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
Visa vs. Status

- Your visa is an ENTRY document ONLY—you are *eligible* to enter the U.S. but CBP can still refuse entry.

- Your visa CAN expire while in the U.S. and this is ok!!!!

- Your STATUS (following immigration regulations) is more important once in the U.S.
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

Change of mailing address MUST be updated in SPIRE before we can register your immigration compliance in the New Student Check In.

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.

Other Changes to Report:
- Change in Funding
- Change in Major, Degree Program
- Termination of studies or early completion of studies
- Extension of studies
- Name change
Maintaining Your Status: Full-time Enrollment

Full-time =

**Undergraduate Students: 12 credits**—More than 15 credits per semester NOT recommended

**Graduate Students: 9 graduate credits**

Limited exceptions for less than full-time 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
Maintaining Your Status: Employment

• On Campus Employment: Including Assistantships
  – Complete the online e-Form request (each semester)
  – Limited to 20 hrs per week when school is in session, 40 hrs per week during break periods
  – (GRADS: Assistantships already count as “employment,” please submit the e-Form)

• More options (off-campus and post-exchange program):
  International Students and Scholars | J-1 Student Employment (umass.edu)
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 may begin to work and get paid by UMass while waiting for your SSN card.
End of Program Considerations

• 30-day grace period following the end date on your DS-2019
• Extensions for programs
• Submit requests for Academic Training BEFORE the end date of the DS-2019
• U.S. Tax obligations (they do not go away even if you do)
• 212(e)

https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/j-1-student-leaving-umass
Travel

• International Travel
  – Contact IPO for travel signatures
  – Carry passport, immigration document (DS-2019 for J-1), Visa stamp in passport
  – Health Insurance document

• Domestic Travel (around the U.S.)
  – Carry passport, most recent I-94, visa document (DS-2019 for J-1)
  – Health insurance document

For more info, please see here: International Students and Scholars | J-1 Students (umass.edu).

*The IPO cannot assist in obtaining or advising on visas to other countries

Make photocopies of your documents and keep them in a safe place!
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
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)…
Non-U.S. Citizens are under Federal Law and the U.S. government states marijuana is still illegal.

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

- Multiple scams target international students
- Contacting both cell phone numbers and e-mail
  - Caller ID looks like government agency
- Will use fear or intimidation
- Threaten family members
- Will try to keep you on the phone
- Will use words like “federal regulations,” “visa fee,” “fraud,” “deportation,” etc.

- 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
Game Time!!
Real Life Situation:

My visa is expired!!!! Can I stay in the U.S.?
Answer:

YES!!!

As long as you are maintaining status and your DS-2019 program end date is valid, you do NOT need to leave the U.S. You will not be deported for having an expired visa.

*Remember a visa stamp is like a key to your house, you need it to work when you come in, but you don’t need them while you’re in your house!
Question:

An I-94 is a record of all entries and departures into the U.S.

Yes or No?
Answer:

YES!

An I-94 is the electronic travel history record that shows all entries and departures from the U.S. It is your immigration history in the U.S.

It is ESSENTIAL that your I-94 is correct. If it is not, you may not be able to work on-campus, you may fall out of status, or you may be denied an immigration benefit. Check it! If wrong, tell the IPO.
Real Life Scenario:

Nasir will not meet the full-time credit requirement to be considered a full-time student. Nasir has approval from his academic advisor to take fewer courses but not from the IPO.

Nasir has maintained his status. Yes or No?
Answer: No!

Any time your credit hours drop BELOW your credit requirement for the year, you must get prior approval from IPO. See here: https://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/j-1-student-maintaining-status.
Real Life Scenario:

Adler was offered a grader position on-campus but doesn’t have a Social Security Number.

Can he begin work? Yes or No?
**Answer:**

Yes, technically but…

Adler must report his employment to the IPO asap to begin working. He must complete I-9 paperwork with Human Resources and his supervisor to ensure everything is in order.

He must have an SSN by the end of the calendar year (December 31) or before he leaves the U.S. (if just a one term student).

[International Students and Scholars | J-1 Student Employment (umass.edu)](https://umass.edu)
Real Life Scenario:

Emma moved to a new apartment 3 months ago. She updated SPIRE within 9 days of the move.

Did Emma comply with the regulations? Yes or No?
You should report all changes to SPIRE within 10 days of the change. The information is sent to SEVIS and will be updated automatically.
Question:

You’re here for at least 1 year, and now it’s Summer 2022! Yay! You see an ad for a Summer Camp needing Camp Counselors. Can you use your Academic Training for this?

Yes or No?
Answer:

NO!

Unless the position of Camp Counselor is DIRECTLY related to your field of study and adds to the training in your program, you cannot be a camp counselor.
Question:

My program has ended and my friends and I want to take a cruise to the Bahamas. The DS-2019 date has ended but I’m in my 30-day grace period, am I allowed to take the cruise?

YES or NO?
Answer:

NO!!

The 30-day grace period is only for packing up and preparing to leave the U.S. You may also travel around INSIDE the U.S. As soon as you depart the U.S., you end your J-1 status and will need to re-enter the U.S. under a different status.
THANK YOU & WELCOME TO UMASS!!

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