

Welcome!

Fall 2021

FIU

**International Student
and Scholar Services**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



International Student Services

OUR AGENDA TODAY

- Dr. Ortiz Welcome - Greetings
- Thaddeus Randall - Introduction
- ISSS Services and Operations
- Immigration Regulations: Maintaining Status



In the United States on 2018/2019:

1,095,299 international students were in the U.S. in **2018/19** including those in academic programs and Optional Practical Training.

Open Doors is conducted by the Institute of International Education with the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Online at: www.iie.org/opendoors

opendoors®

Who does ISSS serve?



Total number of International Students on F-1 visas at FIU:

4,494

Undergraduate Students: **2202**

Graduate Students: **1209**

OPT: **775**

TOP COUNTRIES

Venezuela	664
China	566
India	399
Kuwait	234
Brazil	169
Colombia	144
Nigeria	123



Countries represented: **143**

Staying Informed!



ISSS Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/FIUISSS>



ISSS Instagram

[@fiuiss](#)

Go ahead and Like and follow us on Social Media!

What is ISSS?

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services is the first point of contact for international students and scholars at the university.



What are Our Services?

We provide:

- Advising services to international students and scholars on immigration, legal, personal, cultural and financial issues
- Referrals to other campus or community resources if ISSS is unable to help directly or when other services are needed

And also....

- We notify students of changes in immigration regulations via email and the ISSS website
- We prepare letters and certifications needed by other agencies and institutions
- We assist students with cultural adjustment and personal concerns
- We coordinate a varied activity program for all international students and scholars

Communicating with ISSS

You can talk to an advisor accessing our
VIRTUAL OFFICE

go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice

Our Hours:

Monday to Friday

9 am to 11:30 am and 2:00 to 4:30 pm



Appointment Policy

ISSS works on an appointment schedule so advisors can give full attention to students' questions and concerns.

Please schedule a virtual appointment accessing

go.fiu.edu/appointment



Document Requests

Document Requests can be submitted using the

FIU ISSS PORTAL

FIU ISSS

Secure Online Session
Abdulla H A H Alajmi
Campus: Modesto A. Maidique
Campus
Network ID: aalaj021

FIU ISSS Services Home Page

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) welcomes all international students at FIU!

At the ISSS Office we want to make sure you have a positive and productive experience as you become an integral part of our community and beyond. We are committed to your academic, professional, and personal success as you pursue your studies in the United States and are here to support you through out that endeavor.

For New Students ONLY:

- If you are an **F-1 student**, please use the **New Panther** link to check- in.
- If you are a **J-1 exchange student**, please use the **J-1 Student Services** link to check- in.

All Students:

Please confirm that your **Biographical Information** from the menu on the left is correct.

SEVIS Status Information	Options
SEVIS ID: N0013844117 Status: Active	<input type="checkbox"/> View cases closed before today <input type="checkbox"/> View correspondence and notes

When you submit a request, please allow **5-7 business days** to be completed.

Documents will be sent to you via email.

Hours and 24/7 Contact

OUR HOURS:
Mon – Fri
8:30am-5:00pm

Our Number
(24/7)
305-348-2421

Our Website-Your Guide

ISSS Webpage

issss.fiu.edu



The screenshot shows the top portion of the FIU ISSS website. At the top left is the FIU logo and the text "FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY". At the top right is a search icon and the word "SEARCH". Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with the text "Office of International Student & Scholar Services" in white. Underneath the navigation bar is a yellow banner with the text "FIU Coronavirus Advisory – Visit our [Panthers Protecting Panthers website](#) and our [Federal Relief page](#) for updates." At the bottom of the screenshot is a photograph of the FIU building, a multi-story white structure with many windows, framed by several tall palm trees under a bright blue sky with some clouds. The "FIU" logo is visible on the top of the building.

FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY Q SEARCH

Office of International Student & Scholar Services

[About](#) ▾ [International Students](#) ▾ [Visiting Scholars](#) ▾ [Medical Insurance](#) [Finances & Taxes](#) ▾ [ISSS Portal](#) ▾

FIU Coronavirus Advisory – Visit our [Panthers Protecting Panthers website](#) and our [Federal Relief page](#) for updates.



IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

YOUR Status - YOUR Responsibility



Have you checked in?

Transfer and Newly Arrived Students

MUST CHECK IN using the **NEW PANTHER PORTAL**

within the **first week** of class! Visit <https://globalaffairs.fiu.edu>

Documents you must upload to your ISSS Panther Portal to check in:

- ✓ Proof that you completed the Check-In Virtual Information Session
- ✓ Passport / F1 or J1 Visa
- ✓ Electronic I-94 Form
- ✓ I-20 or DS-2019 Form
- ✓ Your local address and phone number



Failure to check in with ISSS will result in your SEVIS record termination!!

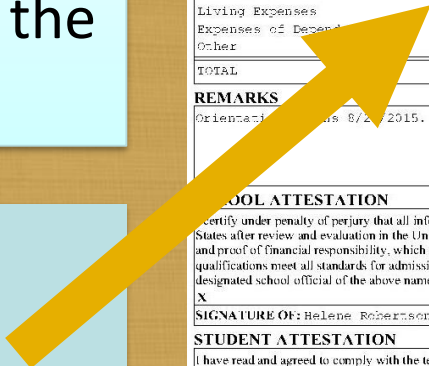
Your I-20 Form

SEVIS ID#

- Make sure all information on I-20 is correct
- You must not let your I-20 expire while you remain in the U.S.!

Item 5 shows the program dates

You must come to ISSS before the end date if you need to extend your program



Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement		I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1653-0038	
SEVIS ID: N0004705512			
GIVEN NAME John Doe-Smith		CLASS F-1 ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE	
PREFERRED NAME John Doe-Smith		PASSPORT NUMBER	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH UNITED KINGDOM		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP UNITED KINGDOM	
DATE OF BIRTH 01 JANUARY 1980		ADMISSION NUMBER	
FORM ISSUE REASON INITIAL ATTENDANCE		LEGACY NAME John Doe-Smith	
SCHOOL INFORMATION			
SCHOOL NAME SEVZ School For Advanced SEVIS Studies SEVZ School For Advanced SEVIS Studies		SCHOOL ADDRESS 9002 Nancy Lane, Ft. Washington, MD 20744	
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL Helene Robertson EDSO		SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE BAL214F4444000 03 APRIL 2015	
PROGRAM OF STUDY			
EDUCATION LEVEL DOCTORATE	MAJOR 1 Economics, General 45.0601	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000	
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 72 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient.	
PROGRAM START DATE 01 SEPTEMBER 2015	PROGRAM END DATE 31 MAY 2021		
FINANCIALS			
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 23,000	Personal Funds	\$ 3,000
Living Expenses	\$ 6,000	Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship	\$ 29,000
Expenses of Dependents	\$ 3,000	Funds From Another Source	\$
Other	\$	On-Campus Employment	\$
TOTAL	\$ 32,000	TOTAL	\$ 32,000
REMARKS			
Orientation begins 8/29/2015. Please report to ISSS upon arrival.			
SCHOOL ATTESTATION			
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED	
SIGNATURE OF: Helene Robertson, EDSO	21 April 2015	Ft. Washington, MD	
STUDENT ATTESTATION			
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE OF: John Doe Smith	DATE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city/state or province/country)	
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	SIGNATURE	DATE	

Your I-20 Form

Page 2 of the I-20 contains the signature of a DSO which makes the document valid for **TRAVEL**

This signature must be **less than 12 months old** if you want to travel outside the U.S.



Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: N0004705512 (F-1) NAME: John Doe Smith

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TYPE
EMPLOYMENT START DATE	EMPLOYMENT END DATE
EMPLOYER NAME	EMPLOYER LOCATION
COMMENTS	

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION

REQUESTED VISA TYPE	REQUEST/PETITION STATUS	RECEIPT NUMBER	BENEFIT START DATE/REQUEST DATE
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EVENT HISTORY

EVENT NAME	EVENT DATE
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OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

AUTHORIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
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TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT

This page when properly endorsed, may be used for reentry of the student to attend the same school after temporary absence from the United States. Each certification signature is valid for one year.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		

ICE Form I-20 A-B (12/2016) Page 2 of 3

Your Form I-94

- Electronic record of your entry into the U.S. which you can access at www.cbp.gov/i94
- Issued to foreign visitors to the U.S. (all non-U.S. citizens) and contains an 11-digit number
- You will be issued a new I-94 number **each time** you make a new entry into the U.S.

The information in this record is extremely important as it shows the length of time and in which visa status you are permitted to stay in the U.S. Your Form I-94 electronic record should state the following:

Class of Admission:

F-1 or J-1

Admit Until Date:

D/S

(Duration of Status)

Departure Grace Periods for F-1 and J-1 Students

After completion of program:

60 - day Grace Period for F-1 students

After Completion of Program OR After Optional Practical Training

30 - day Grace Period for J-1 students

After Completion of Program OR After Academic Training

Within the grace period you must:

- **Transfer to a new academic program (continue student status)**
- **Change to another status if eligible**
- **Leave the U.S. (once you have departed you may not re-enter in student status)**

For F-1 STUDENTS WITHDRAWING FROM PROGRAM

15 - day Grace Period (F-1)

- When a student must leave suddenly without completing his or her program
- May stay in U.S. up to 15 days after dropping classes or no longer attending classes – **MUST BE APPROVED BY ISSS IN ADVANCE**

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

12 credit hours
(Fall & Spring; summer)

FALL/Spring A/B/C

- Admitted for fall – 12 credits first day of classes
- Admitted for Spring 12 credits first day of classes
- **Summer 12 credits 1 class sum A**

EXCEPTIONS:

- Authorized for reduced course load (RCL Form)

GRADUATE STUDENTS

9 graduate credit hours
(Fall & Spring; summer)

• FALL/Spring A/B/C

Admitted for fall – 9 grad credits first day of classes
Admitted for Spring 9 grad credits first day of classes

Summer 6 credits 1 class sum A

EXCEPTIONS:

- Advance to thesis/dissertation
3 credits = full-time if authorized by UGS
- Authorized for reduced course load (RCL)

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

ONLINE COURSES

Only one online course (**3 credits**) will be counted toward the full-time course load requirement.

You may not take all courses online in your last term

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

9 credits on campus + 3 online = 12 credits

GRADUATE STUDENTS summer

3 credits on campus + 3 online = 6 credits

REDUCED COURSE LOAD (RCL) AUTHORIZATIONS

RCL may be authorized in very limited circumstances
WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FROM ISSS

- **ACADEMIC DIFFICULTIES (limited to first semester only)**
- **MEDICAL CONDITION (may not exceed 12 months)**
- **COMPLETION OF STUDY (limited to FINAL term)**



FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

You may take classes at other institutions (Miami Dade College, university of Miami etc.) that count toward the full-time enrollment requirement if:

- You are enrolled for at least **6 credits** at FIU
- You get written permission from your Academic Advisor and ISSS
- **No more than 3 credits of online coursework will count toward the full-time enrollment requirement**



Academic Dismissal

Dismissal from the university

- When your cumulative GPA falls below requirements for multiple semesters (you will receive warnings before officially dismissed)
- You will be out of status if you cannot successfully appeal this decision (and therefore continue enrollment at FIU)
- Only options to avoid falling out of status are to **IMMEDIATELY transfer to another U.S. school or depart the U.S.**

Travel and Re-entry

To re-enter the U.S. in F-1 status, you need:

- A valid passport (valid six months into the future)
- A valid F-1 visa stamp in your passport
- Your FIU SEVIS I-20 with a valid signature of an ISSS advisor (To be valid this signature must be less than 12 months old)



FORM I-515B

- If your documents are not correct, USCBP officials MAY give you a Form I-515A
- Valid for only 30 days – you must submit requested documents to DHS

Contact ISSS immediately upon your arrival!

Travel and Re-entry

When traveling...

- You must request an ISSS advisor's signature on **PAGE TWO** of your I-20 at least 1 week before your intended travel date
- If you need to renew your F-1 visa, you **MUST** re-verify funding and request an updated I-20 for visa renewal
- **Automatic Visa Revalidation: Mexico, Canada, Caribbean** – visit ISSS before your trip



ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Basic Guidelines

- Student **MUST be maintaining valid F-1 status**
- Student must be **ACTIVE IN PROGRAM AT FIU**
- Work **LIMITED to 20 hours/week** in **Fall & Spring** semesters
- May work 21 hours or more during Summer or school breaks



Off-Campus Employment

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

CPT is practical training that is performed for academic credit (part of school curriculum and commensurate to degree level) OR that is required as part of the academic plan or program curriculum.

This includes:

- Required internship, practicum, student teaching or field experience
- Optional internships for credit (MUST be in student's major or program of study)
- Cooperative (Co-op) education programs for credit (MUST be in student's major or program of study)



Off-Campus Employment

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Detailed information and application procedures are covered in the ISSS Online F-1 Employment Workshop.



This workshop is **REQUIRED**
for all students applying
for Practical Training

Off-Campus Employment

Optional Practical Training (OPT):

- 12 months (total) of employment authorization after graduation from each degree level
- Authorization from USCIS in the form of an EAD (OPT card)
- May use before or after graduation STEM students may apply for an extension





Top 5 international student rules to live by

- 1) Do not let your I-20 expire**
- 2) Do not work on or off campus without ISSS Authorization**
- 3) Always seek authorization from ISSS for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) when enrolling in an internship, Co-op or practicum whether it is paid or non-paid.**
- 4) Always enroll full time during Fall and Spring semesters:
12 credits undergraduate | 9 credits graduate**
- 5) Do not enroll in more than 3 credits online towards your full time enrollment**

Failure to Maintain Status

How?

- Remaining in the U.S. longer than authorized to do so
- Failing to meet requirements or violating the terms of F-1 status
- Studying part-time
- Taking too many online classes
- Engaging in unauthorized employment
- Failing to complete your program



Failure to Maintain Status

Consequences

- Denial of CPT and OPT
- Denial of employment on campus
- Termination of SEVIS record
- Difficulty obtaining new visas and/or reentering U.S.
- Possible deportation (but it usually doesn't get that far)



HOW DO I GET MY STATUS BACK?

Reinstatement (USCIS application)

Restart (New SEVIS ID) via Travel



Make and appointment with ISSS immediately!

Getting a Florida ID and/or Driver's License



Schedule an appointment at
<https://services.flhsmv.gov/Oasis/>

**Please keep in mind that your I-20 must be active in order for you to get your license. It may take up to 15 business days to get your I-20 activated after you check in!
We appreciate your patience.**

International Students and Taxes

- All international students and scholars must file taxes every year.
- ISSS will offer several information workshops before tax filing season to assist FIU students with the process



Hurricanes in Florida

Sign up for [FIU Alerts!](#) when you register for classes.

You will then receive text messages that provide information in the event of an emergency.

During emergencies, call the "FIU-HELP" number: **4357**

IMPORTANT:

All students are required to follow the instructions of University officials in the event of an emergency.



of container to protect from damage

More useful information....

FIU

**International Student
and Scholar Services**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Peer Mentors



Do you need some help navigating the campus and learning about FIU?

If you answered yes, we have the solution. We have FIU students that can help you navigate FIU. Complete the [International Peer Mentor Request Form](#) to request a peer mentor though iss.fiu.edu.



International Community Engagement Project - ICEP-FIU

ICEP is a program managed by the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Office at FIU. The program is designed to engage international and domestic students through the lenses of Community Engagement Projects. ICEP is a 6-month commitment

@FIUICEP



@ICEPFIU



International Community Engagement Project - ICEP-FIU



Have a heart, lend a hand,
and make a difference.

**INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT**

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
This is a great opportunity to engage with your local
community, learn about local & global issues and
become an active citizen

APPLICATION NOW OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS
Deadline: September 13th, 2019

Apply online by visiting
<https://globalaffairs.fiu.edu/iss/iss-international-community-engagement/>



Sample



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

FALL 2019	Spring 2020
OCTOBER 2019 Human Rights & Human Trafficking	JANUARY 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Help to Rejuvenate a School
OCTOBER 2019 Children's Halloween Party with The Little Light House	FEBRUARY 2020 Environmental Project
NOVEMBER 2019 Shoobox of Joy	FEBRUARY 2020 Marine Life Project
Supporting Children Around the World	
NOVEMBER 2019 Chapman Community for Homeless Meal Serving to the Homeless Community	
DECEMBER 2019 International Day for People with Disabilities	

WORKSHOPS Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Homelessness,
Human Rights & Social Responsibility

"THINK GLOBALLY & ACT LOCALLY"

Coming up this Fall....

**Please stay tuned for our
*VIRTUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS!***



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

ISSS Events

Social Events & Programs
See our Calendar of Events!

[Office of International Student & Scholar Services | Florida International University \(fiu.edu\)](https://www.fiu.edu/issss)

Virtual Information Sessions & Workshops
Practical Training Workshops (CPT & OPT)
Immigration Attorney Information Sessions
Tax Workshops
USA Education System Workshop
Job Search Strategies for International Students





FIU

**International Student
and Scholar Services**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Let's Celebrate!