

# Welcome!

Fall 2022

**FIU**

**International Student  
and Scholar Services**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



In the United States in 2020/2021:

**1,075,496** international students were in the U.S. in **2020/21** 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](http://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**

# OUR WEBSITE!

# iss.fiu.edu

## 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.



# Contacting ISSS



[go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice](https://go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice)



[go.fiu.edu/appointment](https://go.fiu.edu/appointment)



[iss@fiu.edu](mailto:iss@fiu.edu)



305-348-2421 (24/7)

# Document Requests

Document Requests can be submitted using the

## FIU ISSS PORTAL

The screenshot shows the FIU International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) portal. The header includes the portal name and navigation icons. A left sidebar lists various services such as Home, Document Request, F-1 Employment Authorization Request, F-1 Practical Training Applications, F-1 Practical Training Reporting, F-1 Reduced Course Load Request, F-1 Special Request, F-1 Special Student Relief (SSR), F-1 Student Services, F-1 Transfer, F-2 Dependent(s), and New Panther. The main content area is titled 'PORTAL Services Home Page' and contains a welcome message from the ISSS Office, a statement of commitment to student success, and information about service improvements. It also includes instructions for new students and a notification for a submitted check-in request.

### Processing Time:

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

### Delivery Options:

digitally signed, scheduled pick up or eship global

# ISSS Social Media



**FIUISSS**



**FIU ISSS**



**@FIUISSS**

# 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

# IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

YOUR Status - YOUR Responsibility



# Have you checked in?

## Transfer/New/Change of Degree Level Students

**MUST CHECK IN** using the **ISSS PORTAL**

within the **first week** of class! Visit <https://globalaffairs.fiu.edu> to access the **FIU ISSS PORTAL**

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

- ✓ Proof that you completed the Check-In Virtual Information
- ✓ 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!!**

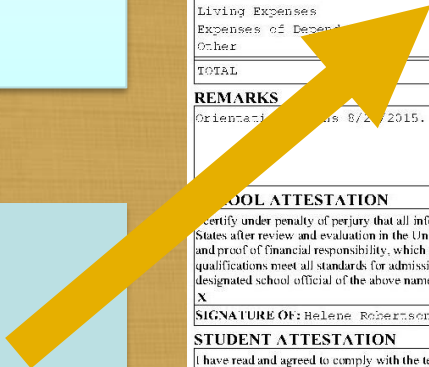
# Your I-20 Form

**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	
<b>SEVIS ID: N0004705512</b>			
STUDENT INFORMATION		CLASS	
GIVEN NAME John Doe-Smith		<b>F-1</b>  ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE	
PREFERRED NAME John Doe-Smith			
COUNTRY OF BIRTH UNITED KINGDOM			
DATE OF BIRTH 01 JANUARY 1990			
FORM ISSUE REASON INITIAL ATTENDANCE			
SCHOOL INFORMATION			
SCHOOL NAME 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	
<b>PROGRAM OF STUDY</b>			
EDUCATION LEVEL DOCTORATE		MAJOR 1 Economics, General 45.0601	
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 72 Months		MAJOR 2 None 00.0000	
PROGRAM START DATE 01 SEPTEMBER 2015		PROGRAM END DATE 31 MAY 2021	
		PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	
		ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient.	
<b>FINANCIALS</b>			
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	
<b>REMARKS</b>			
Orientation begins 8/21/2015. Please report to ISSS upon arrival.			
<b>SCHOOL ATTESTATION</b>			
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.			
SIGNATURE OF: Helene Robertson, EDSO		DATE ISSUED 21 April 2015	PLACE ISSUED Ft. Washington, MD
<b>STUDENT ATTESTATION</b>			
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.			
SIGNATURE OF: John Doe Smith		DATE	
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN		ADDRESS (city/state or province/country)	
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
---------------------	-------------------------	----------------	---------------------------------

EVENT HISTORY

EVENT NAME	EVENT DATE
------------	------------

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

AUTHORIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
---------------	------------	----------

**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	ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		

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

# Your F-1 Visa



The visa is an entry document only. It may expire while you are here in the U.S. without affecting your F-1 status.



However, you must **ALWAYS** have a valid passport. It is recommended that your passport be valid for at least six months into the future.

# Your Form I-94

- Electronic record of your entry into the U.S. which you can access at [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://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)**

# ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

TERMS	UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS	GRADUATE STUDENTS
FALL OR SPRING SEMESTERS	<b>12 credits (Fall &amp; Spring)</b> Max 3 credits online	<b>9 credits (Fall &amp; Spring)</b> Max 3 credits online
SUMMER A/C	<b>12 Credits if first semester</b> (Optional for continuing students)	<b>6 credits if first semester</b> (Optional for continuing students)
SUMMER B	<b>6 credits if first semester</b> (Optional for continuing students)	<b>3 credits if first semester</b> (Optional for continuing students)
EXCEPTIONS	RCL- completion of degree or medical RCL	PhD students advancing to thesis/dissertation, RCL- completion of degree

More Information here:

<https://iss.fiu.edu/about/fall-faqs/index.html>



# FALL FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

## ONLINE COURSES

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

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**9 credits on campus + 3 online = 12 credits**

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

**6 credits on campus + 3 online = 9 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.**

# SEVIS Transfers

## Transfer-In

- If you came to FIU from another institution in the U.S., you need to get a new I-20 that shows the transfer has been completed within 15 days of the first day of classes.

## Transfer-Out

- If you decide to transfer or attend another U.S. school after completing your degree at FIU, you must request that your SEVISA record be transferred to the other school.
  - **USE THE ISSS PORTAL TO REQUEST A TRANSFER OUT**
  - If you leave FIU and attend another school without transferring your SEVIS record, you will be out-of-status.

# 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 a TRAVEL I-20 using the ISSS Portal. an ISSS 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 using the ISSS Portal
- **Automatic Visa Revalidation: Mexico, Canada, Caribbean – visit ISSS before your trip**



# 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**

# 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 Practical Training

## *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 Practical Training

## *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 Practical Training

## *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!**

# More useful information....

**FIU**

**International Student  
and Scholar Services**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



# Social Security Card



- **ONLY** issued if you have authorized employment
- Apply for a SSN only after your SEVIOS record has been set to **ACTIVE**
- **IMPORTANT:** If you are a new student, your record will be set to **ACTIVE** once you complete your virtual check in. This process may take up to 10 business days after you have checked in. Once your record is active, you will receive an e-mail from ISSS. Please wait 48 hours after receiving this e-mail to go to the Social Security Office to get your SSN.
- More Information [HERE](#)

# 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



[go.fiu.edu/request-mentor](https://go.fiu.edu/request-mentor)

Do you want to meet new friends or learn about FIU from a peer?

**Join our**  
**ISSS INTERNATIONAL**  
**PEER MENTOR PROGRAM**

# ISSS Events

**Social Events & Programs**  
See our Calendar of Events!

**Virtual Information Sessions & Workshops**  
Practical Training Workshops ( CPT & OPT )  
Immigration Attorney Information Sessions  
Tax Workshops  
USA Education System Workshop

See our [CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)





# See you next Wednesday!

ISSS PRESENTS

# WELCOME

*Party*

DJ | FOOD | DRINKS

08. 24. 2022

12 PM -2 PM | SA5C TERRACE | MMC

**FIU** | International Student & Scholar Services





**FIU**

**International Student  
and Scholar Services**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**Let's Celebrate!**