Welcome!

Fall 2022
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.
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

Countries represented: 143

Top Countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR WEBSITE!

issss.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

isss@fiu.edu

305-348-2421 (24/7)
Document Requests

Document Requests can be submitted using the FIU ISSSS PORTAL

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

FIU ISSSS

FIU ISSS

@FIU ISSSS
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 if 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](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 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

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEVIS ID#</th>
<th>80004705512</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIVEN NAME</td>
<td>John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY NAME</td>
<td>Doe-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTRY OF BIRTH</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>12/3/1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORM ISSUE REASON</td>
<td>Initial Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGACY NAME</td>
<td>Doe-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL NAME</td>
<td>FIU School for Advanced SEVIS Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL ADDRESS</td>
<td>1100 S W Unlimited St, Miami, FL 33199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lime.hobos@fiu.edu">lime.hobos@fiu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM START DATE</td>
<td>01/09/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM END DATE</td>
<td>08/31/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR 1</td>
<td>Economics, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR 2</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT ATTERTATION</td>
<td>I certify that all information provided above is true and correct. I understand that if any information provided above is false, my student status will be terminated and I may be deported.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Start Date: 01/09/2016

Program Start Date: 01/09/2016
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.
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

• 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

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

More Information here:  
[https://isss.fiu.edu/about/fall-faqs/index.html](https://isss.fiu.edu/about/fall-faqs/index.html)
ONLINE COURSES
be counted toward the full-time course load. Only one online course (3 credits) will be required.

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 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
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.
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 an appointment with ISSS immediately!
More useful information....
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 important updates during emergencies.
During emergencies you may also call the “FIU-HELP” line for information: (305) 348-4357.

• Stay tuned to local news and the FIU website and Help Line
• HAVE A PLAN
• Put all important documents in a sealed plastic bag, envelope or container to protect from damage

IMPORTANT:
All students are required to follow the instructions of University officials in the event of an emergency.
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 | SASC TERRACE | MMC

FIU | International Student & Scholar Services
Let's Celebrate!