J-1 Immigration Presentation

International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)
Iowa State University
Memorial Union 3248
(515) 294-1120

Information current as of 12/23/2015
ISSO: J Immigration Advisors

Jessica Fincham

Ashley Huth
ISSO: Advising Services

- Appointments
  - Can be scheduled online at www.isso.iastate.edu
  - 20 minutes
  - In person or phone appointments

- E-mail
  - isso@iastate.edu
  - Response rate is a maximum of 3 working days
ISSO: J Immigration Information

- Academic Training
- Change of Academic Level
- J-2 Dependent
- J-2 Work Permission
- Program Extension
- Reduced Course Load
- Reentry to ISU for Graduate Students
- Transfer From ISU
- Waiver of Two Year Home Residency Requirement

ISSO Web Page – www.issued.iastate.edu
ISSO: Events

- Programs and Events:
  - Cultural Ambassador Program
  - English Together
  - Friendships International
  - Coffee, Tea, and English
  - I-LEAD
  - Trips
  - Weekly ISSO Newsletter
List of immigration documents

- Passport
- Visa
- I-94
- I-94
- DS-2019
Your passport is issued by the federal government of your country of citizenship.

You MUST have a valid passport to enter the U.S.
  - Must be valid for at least 6 months into the future

You MUST have a valid passport to remain in the U.S.
Immigration Documents: Visa

- You MUST have a valid visa to enter the U.S.
  - Renew at a U.S. consulate outside the U.S.
- You do NOT need a valid visa to remain in the U.S.

- Visa Class
- Entries [Allowed]
  - M = Multiple
- Expiration Date
Immigration Document: I-94

- You received an I-94 record when entering the U.S.
  - U.S. CBP entered your information in a database
  - Obtain a copy of your I-94 record at www.cbp.gov/I94

I-94 Number
Expiration Date
  D/S = Duration of Status
Class of Admission
Immigration Status
You MUST have a valid DS-2019 to enter the U.S.

You MUST have a valid DS-2019 to remain in the U.S.

J-1 status is extended by extending your DS-2019
Immigration Documents

- Name on all legal documents must match
  - Immigration documents
  - ISU records (including ISU Card)
  - Iowa driver’s license or Iowa ID card (if obtained)
  - Social Security Card (obtained if working in U.S.)

- Make copies of your immigration documents
  - Passport, J-1 visa, I-94 record, DS-2019

- Carry copy of documents while in Ames area
  - Carry original documents when outside Ames area

- Keep original DS-2019 even after leaving
  - Historical record of your U.S. immigration history
Maintaining Status: New Address

- If you move, you must report your new address to ISSO within 10 days.
  - Use Access Plus to update your address
  - Your address must be the physical location where you live
    - It cannot be a post office box nor an ISU departmental address
  - ISSO is responsible for reporting the new address to SEVIS
Maintaining Status: Enrollment

- **Register full time** during the fall & spring semesters.
  - 12 semester hours for undergraduate students
  - 9 semester hours for graduate students
    - This may differ for graduate students with an assistantship

- Consult with an ISSO advisor before enrolling in a WWW (on-line) or distance education course
Maintaining Status: Enrollment

- Allowance for reduced course load
  - Immigration regulations define the **valid reasons** for a reduced course load
    - Academic
    - Academic Training
    - Medical
    - Final semester

- Requesting a reduced course load
  - Submit **Cystart** e-form to request a Reduced Course Load
    - Your major professor/academic adviser will be asked to verify information
  - Submit prior to dropping below full time
Maintaining Status: Extension

- Extension to complete current program objective
- Must request prior to end date on DS-2019
- Must continue with same program objective
- Student non-degree category limited to 24 months
Maintaining Status: Change Level

- Begin new academic program at a higher educational level
- Must request prior to end date on DS-2019
- Must continue with same program objective
- Not an option for student non-degree category
Maintaining Status: Transfer

- Transfer of J program sponsor
  - Transfer is for immigration purposes
  - During current program
  - After current program
- Must continue with same program objective
Maintaining Status: Employment

- Must be in good academic standing
- Must continue to enroll full time (fall, spring)
- Must obtain permission in advance from your Program Sponsor
  - Authorization valid for 12 months only
- May work 20 hours each week (fall, spring) on campus
- May work full time during summer vacation and official ISU breaks on campus
Maintaining Status: Employment

- **Types of Employment**
  - **On-Campus**
    - Employer is Iowa State University
  - **Off-Campus**
    - Necessary because of serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic circumstances
    - Extremely Rare!
Maintaining Status: Employment

- **Types of Employment**

  - **Academic Training**
    - Must be directly related to current program of study
    - Limit of 18 months for bachelors or masters students
    - Limit of 36 months for doctoral students
    - Limit of time equal to time spent studying for students in non-degree programs
Maintaining Status: Travel

- **Travel Outside the U.S.**
  - Obtain travel endorsement on DS-2019
    - Leave with ISSO receptionist
    - Pick up after 3 working days
  - Need valid passport and visa to re-enter U.S.

- Can only re-enter if resuming J program activity
  - **No travel** to Canada, Mexico, or contiguous islands after semester in which you complete your final classes or thesis
Maintaining Status: Completion

- **Program Completion**
  - Your program completion date is when you complete your program requirements.
  - Must notify program sponsor if completing more than 30 days before DS-2019 end date
  - Cannot work once program is completed, except for academic training
  - Must leave the U.S. within 30 days from completing your academic program
Maintaining Status: Health Insurance

- **Health Insurance Requirement**
  - Self and dependents in J-2 status
  - Meets minimum coverage amounts
  - Valid for the length of your J-1 program
Maintaining Status: Responsibility

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security holds you responsible for maintaining your J-1 status.

- Check ISU email regularly.
  - ISU policy states that all official e-mail be sent to a student’s ISU e-mail account.
Violation of J-1 Status

- Failure to enroll full-time
- Failure to update ISSO with living address
- Failure to receive on-campus work authorization
- Working off-campus without authorization
- Failure to maintain health insurance that meets DOS requirements

Can have life long consequences!
J-2 Status

- J-2 Dependents
  - Allowed to enroll in classes or pursue a degree
  - Allowed to apply for work permission
  - J-2 status dependent on J-1 spouse or parent
  - Cannot remain a J-2 dependent once you reach age 21
212(e) or Two Year Rule

- Two-Year Home Country Physical Presence Requirement
  - Government Funding
    - U.S.
  - Home Government
- Exchange Visitor Skills List
  - Academic field of J program
  - Country of citizenship
212(e) or Two Year Rule

- Must be present in your home country for at least two years time after completion of your J-1 program

- Cannot return to U. S. in H or L status

- Cannot return to U. S. in permanent residence status
Questions?

We hope you have an enjoyable experience at Iowa State University!