International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)

3248 Memorial Union

Office hours

- Monday – Friday
  - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
ISSO Advisors

Ashley Huth
Dilok Phanchantraurai
Ali Soltanshahi
Becky Zama
International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)

How to meet with an ISSO adviser:

- **Advance Appointments**: 30 minutes
- **Same Day Appointments**: 15 minutes
- **Reserve through ISSO homepage**
  - [www.isso.iastate.edu](http://www.isso.iastate.edu)
Other options to contact an ISSO advisor

- Phone
  - (515) 294-1120
- E-mail
  - intlserv@iastate.edu

Please do not send the same e-mail to several advisors.
International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO)

Other immigration resources

- **ISSO website:** www.isso.iastate.edu
  - Events, workshops, presentations
  - FAQ, information sheets, ISSO newsletter
  - E-forms to request benefits of your F-1 status
Immigration Documents

- Passport
- Visa
- I-20
- I-94 Card (electronic)
Who can study?  
You!

Where can you study?  
Iowa State University

What can you study?  
Level of education  
Major

When can you study?  
End date for current degree program
Immigration Documents

I-20 (page 3)

- CPT authorizations
- OPT recommendations
- Reduced Course Load approvals
- Travel endorsements
Immigration Documents

Form I-94 (electronic)

- Documents legal entry to the U.S.
- Documents non-immigrant status
- Paper copy can be obtained at:
  
  www.cbp.gov/i94
Immigration Documents

Passport

- Must be valid for at least six months into the future.
- Contact your embassy to extend or replace
- Stamp in passport must say “F1” and “D/S”
Visa

- Must be valid to travel to the U.S.
  - Can only be obtained at U.S. consulates

- Does NOT affect your legal status while in the U.S.
  - OK if it expires while you are in the U.S.

Your visa is your key to get into the country!
Visa vs Immigration Status

- Your **VISA** is the stamp in your passport you receive at a U. S. consulate

- Your **visa** is used only to request admission to the U. S.

- Your **visa** can expire while you are in the U. S., without any penalty

- A **visa** can be renewed only at a consulate outside the U. S.

- Your **IMMIGRATION STATUS** is indicated on your I–94 when you enter the U. S.

- Your **immigration status** allows you to stay in the U. S. for your F program.

- Your **immigration status** must remain current and valid while in the U. S.

- Your **immigration status** can be extended within the U. S.
Role Play – Travel Signature

- Returning F-1 student at the port-of-entry
  - Forgot to have I-20 signed!
Immigration Documents

Copies
- Make two copies of all your and your dependent’s immigration documents (passport, I-94, I-20)

On Your Person
- Carry one set of copies with you in Iowa
- Store one set of copies in a safe place
- Carry original documents when outside Iowa

Retention
- Keep all I-20 forms that are issued to you and dependents
  - These demonstrate the history of your time in the U.S.
Maintaining Status

- **Obtain immigration advice from:**
  - ISSO advisors
  - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (US ICE)
  - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (US CIS)
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (US CBP)

- **Not from:**
  - Friends
  - Faculty or academic advisors
Maintaining Status

- **Maintaining Valid F-1 Status**
  - You are responsible for your F-1 status
    - Review your immigration documents
      - Before and after travel
      - Beginning of each semester.
  - Thoroughly read all emails from ISSO!!!
    - These will always go to your @iastate.edu
  - Meet deadlines set forth by F-1 immigration regulations
Maintaining Status

- **Full-Time Enrollment**
  - Requirement for fall and spring semesters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level:</th>
<th>What’s Full-Time?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>12 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Level</td>
<td>9 credits per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate with Assistantship</td>
<td>Defined by your academic department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Summer session**
  - No enrollment requirement *unless* your first semester at ISU
Reduced Course Load (RCL)

- Difficulties with English language
- Difficulties with reading requirements
- Unfamiliar with American teaching methods
- Inappropriate course level placement

- Documented medical condition
- Graduate student pursuing full time research

To complete a course of study in current term

Option to use ONE of these once per degree level

Submit RCL request to ISSO for approval
Distance and On-Line Courses

- ONLY one course or 3-credits per term (towards the "full course of study" requirement).
- Cannot be only class during last semester.
Concurrent Enrollments

- Can be enrolled in two different schools at the same time, as long as full time, and both are SEVIS-certified.

- Discuss with an ISSO advisor before choosing concurrent enrollments.
Role Play – Not full time

- F-1 student failed to register full-time enrollment and did not apply for Reduced Course Load (RCL).
Report Change of Address

- Report your change of address through AccessPlus within 10 days of moving.
Other benefits of F-1 status

- Transfer to new school (immigration process)
- Change of academic level
- Extension of I-20 for current degree
- Off campus employment

On campus employment (do not need approval)

Submit request to ISSO for approval
Benefits of F-1 Status

- On Campus Employment
  - Paycheck from Iowa State University
  - 20 hours per week (or less) during fall and spring semesters
    - Not an average each week!
  - Full time when school is not in session (no classes held) IF you will be continuing as a student after the break.
    - Summer vacation, winter break, Thanksgiving break, spring break.
Benefits of F-1 Status

- Off Campus Employment
  - Eligible **ONLY** after having enrolled full-time for one full academic year
  - Must obtain written approval from ISSO
    - Attend CPT/OPT workshop for more information
  - See an ISSO advisor if **unforeseen** circumstances arise which cause you a severe economic hardship

Requires Special Authorization
Role Play – Pizza

- F-1 student works at pizzeria.
Violation of F-1 Status

- Violating your F-1 status
  - Expired I-20 or passport
  - Not enrolled full time (and no RCL)
  - Address change not reported within 10 days of moving
  - Working off-campus without proper authorization
Violation of F-1 Status

- Consequences of being “out of status”:
  - You will need to “get back in status” (Reinstatement)
    - Costly
    - Sometimes difficult
  - Loss of work benefits on campus and off campus
  - In extreme cases;
    - Could lead to deportation
    - Could require a new visa to reenter the U.S.
    - Could be barred from re-entering U.S. (3 or 10 years)
    - Could be reason for denial of future benefits or request for change to another status
F-2 Dependents

- Can only take classes that are avocational or recreational in nature.

- Can **not** work either on or off-campus.

- F-2 status depends on the F-1 status.
Welcome to ISU!!

We now take any questions you may have.