Transfer from ISU: Frequently Asked Questions
Students in J-1 Status

What is a transfer?
- Change of U.S. educational institution
  - Transfer can occur in the middle of a degree program, after completing a degree program, or after engaging in a period of academic training
  - SEVIS record is transferred from ISU to the new educational institution
- Change of J program sponsor
  - See Transfer to ISU: Frequently Asked Questions – Students in J-1 Status

What are the restrictions for a J-1 student wanting to transfer?
- Must study same major at new institution
- Must study at same level, or higher level, as degree program at ISU
- Students in the nondegree category can only transfer to a nondegree program at new institution, within the same major

When do I submit for a transfer?
- Any time prior to the end date on current DS-2019

What must I submit to request a transfer?
- Transfer from ISU: J-1 Student Request form
- Transfer: Academic/Faculty and DOGE Recommendations form
- Admission letter from new educational institution

Do I need to meet an ISSO advisor?
- No, but you may want to discuss the SEVIS release date with an ISSO advisor.

Where do I submit my request for a transfer?
- Drop off the completed form at the front desk, ISSO, 3248 Memorial Union
- If you are away from campus, you may fax the completed form to 515-294-8263 or scan and e-mail it to intlserv@iastate.edu

What is the timeline for processing a transfer request?
- 10 calendar days

How will I know if my request for a transfer has been submitted to SEVIS?
- ISSO will send an e-mail to your ISU e-mail address when processing is complete.
  - If you do not receive this e-mail within 10 calendar days after submitting your request, please send an e-mail to intlserv@iastate.edu to check on your request

What if I change my mind about which educational institution I want to transfer to?
- ISSO can cancel the transfer if you notify an ISSO advisor before the SEVIS release date you selected
  - Send your request to intlserv@iastate.edu or call 515-294-1120
If you change your mind after the SEVIS release date, you will need to work with the new educational institution to correct your SEVIS record.

How is my authorized employment (on campus or academic training) affected by my transfer?
- Students must stop all employment authorized by ISU the day before the SEVIS release date
- Students are eligible to begin employment at the new educational institution on the date their SEVIS record is transferred
  - However, policies do vary between educational institutions, so please consult with the international student advisor at the new institution regarding the earliest employment date

What else should I do after I decide to transfer from ISU?
- Withdraw from ISU if enrolled for the current semester
  - Process begins with your academic/faculty advisor
  - If you fail to complete this step, you will remain responsible for paying your ISU tuition and fees
- Cancel your future registration if transferring between semesters
  - If you fail to complete this step, you will remain responsible for paying your ISU tuition and fees
- Notify the Department of Residence if living in a residence hall or university apartment

When will I get my new DS-2019 from my new educational institution?
- The new educational institution must wait until your SEVIS record is released to issue the new DS-2019

What if I want to go home before starting classes at the new school?
- You must use the DS-2019 from the new school to return to the U.S.

Will I need to apply for a new J-1 visa since my SEVIS record was transferred?
- If your current J-1 visa expires after your date of return and has multiple entries, then most students will not need to apply for a new J-1 visa. This is true even if your current J-1 visa has ISU listed in the annotation at the bottom of the visa.

What are the immediate consequences if I fail to request a transfer within the timeframes noted above?
- You will be considered in violation of your J-1 nonimmigrant status
- You will not be allowed to continue working on campus
- If you have authorization to work off campus, it will be automatically terminated
- You lose your eligibility for all other benefits of your J-1 nonimmigrant status

What if I don’t complete the immigration transfer process and the new educational institution gives me a new DS-2019?
- This type of DS-2019 is issued for the purpose of initial attendance
  - You will not be able to return to the U.S. until 30 days prior to the report date on your new DS-2019
- If you failed to inform the new school you were previously enrolled at IEOP or ISU
  - This is viewed as fraud and is reason for the new school to cancel your admission