

International Student Guidelines

Understanding the Rules and Regulations



Meet Our Team



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First things first

SEVIS Registration: On the notecard, please provide the following information:

US Address/Phone

- If you are in a dorm, just add dorm name and PO Box in mailroom
- If you have a US phone, please provide that.

Expected Program End Date/Major

- Not your graduation date, but the month/year you are expected to take your last classes.

Visa Basics

Key documents to travel with and keep in a safe place.

F-1 Visa/Passport

- Located in your passport and given to you by the US Embassy in your home country, except if you are Canadian.

Form I-20

- Document to keep updated and with you anytime you travel.
- The “travel endorsement” on the back needs to be signed before traveling.
- Valid for one year.

I-94

Shows your arrivals and departures in the US.



Enrollment Requirements

Department of Homeland Security has strict guidelines for F1 Students. These are LEGAL requirements and important to follow.

Enrollment

- Stay Enrolled full-time (12 credits)
- Only allowed ONE (1) online class PER SEMESTER, toward your major
- Get approval before dropping below full-time or asking for temporary leave

SEVIS Updates

- Report address changes
- Academic changes, including graduation or program end date within 10 days of the change

Maintain Academic Progress

- Maintain a 2.0 or higher
- Make normal progress toward your degree
- If you are looking toward a graduate degree here, we need to talk ;)

Health Insurance

The state of Massachusetts REQUIRES ACA (Affordable Care Act) compliant insurance. You DO NOT want to be without. There are financial implications down the road if you try to use something different.

University Health Plan

- Moving forward, please enroll in the health plan offered by Nichols.

ISO and other “cheaper” insurances

- Are only ACA comparable not compliant. This can create tax implications later and cost you more in the long run.

I want to save money

- I get that, but don't try to find savings in health insurance.
- US has complicated health care. If it seems cheaper now, it will probably cost more in the long run.

Employment Rules

Department of Homeland Security has strict guidelines for F1 Students. These are LEGAL requirements and important to follow for employment.

On-Campus Employment

- Only allowed to work on campus a max of 20 hours per week during school
- Unauthorized work can lead to visa termination
- You need a US Social Security Number

Off-Campus Employment

- CPT (Curricular Practical Training) or internships
- MUST be related to your major
- MUST be listed on your I-20 BEFORE you actually start working
- OPT is for post-graduation

Come See Me

- Make an appointment with me to discuss any internships or work opportunities to ensure you are following regulations.

Campus Conduct, Safety & Rights

Be a Good Human

- Any on campus/off campus infractions or run ins with the law can affect you and your immigration status
- Avoid political protests
- Avoid posting anything on your social media you wouldn't want Grandma to see

Safety

- Report safety concerns to Student Life and/or Public Safety
- Carry your I-20 and Passport when you go out to bars off campus

You Have Rights

- You have the right to remain silent and consult an attorney
- Never sign documents without legal advise
- You can always call me in an emergency
- What'sApp.

Driving & Local Laws

Driver's License

- You are only allowed temporary access to driving with a license from a different country
- Some licenses are reciprocal
- No drinking and driving--call someone.

Laws

- Follow traffic laws strictly
- Keep registration and insurance updated
- The state of Mass requires a minimum amount of auto insurance
- Please understand it is illegal under FEDERAL law to possess marijuana

Public Transportation

- Bison Shuttle
- Uber
- Local Bus to Worcester
- Train in Worcester

Taxes

I don't work

- You have to file your taxes annually

I work

- You have to file your taxes annually

I don't know how to file taxes--or anything about taxes really

- Neither do I, but I'm here to help!
- We use Sprintax
- Come to the workshops in late March early April

Final Tips

Come See Me

- Ask for help anytime about anything
- There is no “stupid” question...EVER

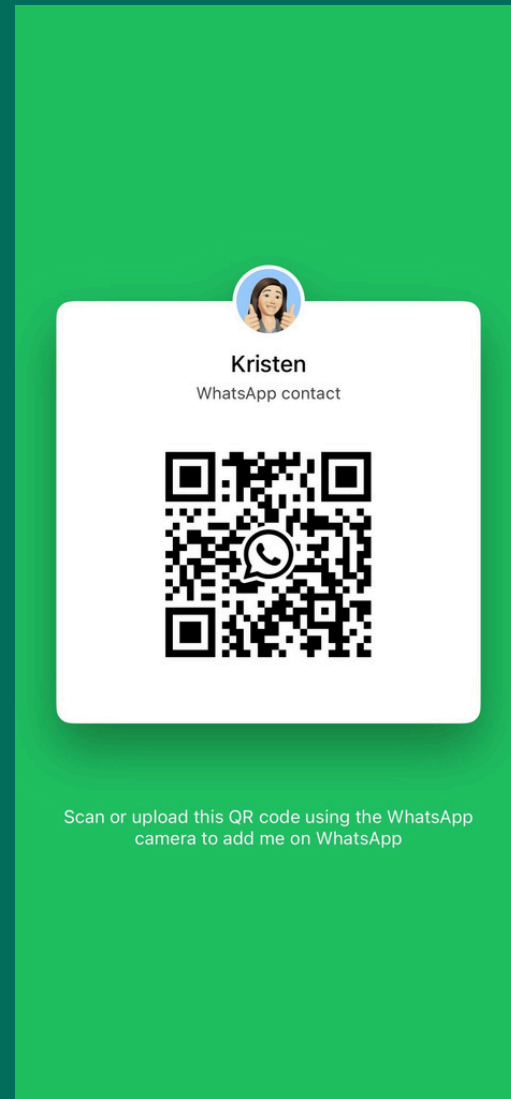
Stay Informed

- You are ultimately responsible for your immigration status
- Keep copies of EVERYTHING meaning your Passport, I-20 (all versions), anything having to do with immigration, taxes, employment etc.

Emergency Planning

- Carry your passport and visa always
- Memorize emergency contacts
- Let people know where you are and where you are going

Resources



International Student Hub



Study in the States

My What'sApp