Welcome!

New international student check-in
Overview

- International Center
- Advising
- Review of documents
- SEVIS
- Maintaining status
- Employment
- Travel
- Completion of studies
- Information resources
- Get involved with the International Center
International student advising

- International student and scholar services staff members are here to help you. Please contact us with any questions.

- Get immigration advice from an international student adviser — please contact your assigned adviser
  - Sponsored students:
    - Jillian Collins
    - Lauren Pate
  - J-1 students:
    - Kristen Albrecht
  - F-1 students:
    - Last names A–K: James Kaemmerer
    - Last names L–S: Brad Boling
    - Last names T–Z: Justine McCarty

- Your legal status is **your** responsibility
International Center

- Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday
- Phone: 573-882-6007
- Web: international.missouri.edu
- Services
  > Advising
  > Workshops
  > Online document request system
  > Programming
Advising schedule

- Walk-in advising (fall and spring semesters)*
  - 10 a.m.–noon and 1:30–3:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

- Appointments
  - Call 573-882-6007 or email your adviser directly to schedule

- Workshops:
  - Optional practical training
  - Curricular practical training
  - Immigration attorneys

*Walk-in advising is intended for short (5–10 minute) questions. Sign-ups for walk-in advising ends 15 minutes prior to the end of walk-in hours.
Your nonimmigrant status

- Are you an F-1 or J-1 student?
- Both are student visas, but there are some significant differences, including:
  > Documents
  > Intention of program
  > Employment
Important documents

- I-20/DS-2019
- You will be issued a new I-20 if you did not receive the redesigned form
- Always double-check:
  > Name
  > Birth date (mm/dd/yyyy)
  > Start and end dates
  > Program
  > Off-campus work authorizations
  > Travel signatures
  > SEVIS number
Important documents

- Passport
  - Must be valid for at least six months into the future
  - Contact your home country’s embassy to renew

- Visa
  - Must have a valid visa to enter the U.S.
  - Your visa can expire while you are here — simply renew it the next time you leave the U.S.

(Used with student’s permission)
Electronic I-94 card

- Arrival/departure record — tracks when you enter and leave the U.S.
- I-94 can be retrieved at i94.cbp.dhs.gov
Entrance stamp

- Stamp proves your current visa status, as well as legal entry into the U.S.
- Your stamp should say “F-1 D/S” or “J-1 D/S”
What is SEVIS?

- Student Exchange Visitor Information System
  - Internet-based system used to transmit information to the Department of Homeland Security regarding foreign nationals present in the U.S. on F, J and M visas
  - Always needs to stay up-to-date
Information reported in SEVIS

- Name
- Date and place of birth
- Country of citizenship
- Address (U.S. and foreign) — update local address through myZou
- Enrollment (full-time or part-time)
- Date of commencement of studies
- Degree program and field of study
- Program start and end dates
- Training authorizations
- Termination date and reason, if known
Maintaining status

- To remain “in status,” you must comply with the rules of your immigration status.
- Failure to comply puts you “out of status,” which requires you to leave the U.S. immediately.
Top 3 ways to maintain status

- Keep I-20 or DS-2019 updated
- Enroll in a full course of study every semester
- Only work when you have authorization
Keep I-20 or DS-2019 updated

- If the program end date on your document comes and you are not yet finished with your academic program, you must apply for a program extension before your document expires.
- Complete an online document request for program extension before the end date.
- Update local address in myZou within 10 days of moving.
- Receive new document after change of major or change of level.
Enroll in a full course of study

This means at least:

> Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours
> Graduate students without assistantship: 9 credit hours
> Graduate students with assistantship: 6 credit hours
Enroll in a full course of study

- You must enroll **full-time** each semester unless you have permission from the International Center to take fewer credits.

- Summer enrollment requirements vary
  - If summer is your first or final semester, enrollment is required.
  - Otherwise, it is considered a vacation period.
Valid reasons* for dropping below full-time enrollment:

> Student in final semester
> Graduate student finished with required course work
> Medical condition
> Initial difficulties with English language, American teaching methods or course placement

*There are restrictions related to each of these options — please see an international student adviser prior to dropping below full-time enrollment.
Enroll in a full course of study

- Dropping a course
  > If you drop below or withdraw from a full course of study, you cannot remove courses on your own
  > You must come to walk-ins to get a dropping a course form and then take the form to the Office of the University Registrar
Enrollment: Online courses

Only three credits of online course work can count toward full-time enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total credits needed</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (without assistantship)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (with assistantship)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment authorization

- On-campus employment
- Curricular practical training
- Optional practical training
- Academic training
Employment: On campus

- In general, you can work up to **20 hours** per week on campus while school is in session (**full-time during the summer** and other school breaks).

- Eligible now and will remain eligible until the day studies are completed (as long as you maintain status).

- On-campus employment for J-1 students must be reported in SEVIS.
On-campus vs. off-campus employment
On-campus employment must be either:

1. Performed on the school’s premises providing services for students
2. Performed at an off-campus location that is educationally affiliated with the school

Where is your paycheck from?
Off-campus employment

- Must receive permission **before** you begin working off-campus
  - F-1 students must have been in a program for **one academic year** before becoming eligible

- Practical training options
  - Curricular practical training: F-1 students
  - Optional practical training: F-1 students
  - Academic training: J-1 students

- More information at [international.missouri.edu](http://international.missouri.edu) and watch for workshops throughout the semester
### Off-campus employment

- **Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**
  - Off-campus work authorization for internship in your field of study
  - Required to complete academic program - must enroll in academic credit

- **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**
  - Pre- or post-completion for 12 months of work authorization in your field of study

- **Academic Training**
  - J-1 student off-campus work authorization
  - Can be used during and/or after your graduation
Social Security number

- SSN facilitates the reporting of wages to the government
- You are eligible for a SSN only if you have a job in the U.S.
- Your SSN never expires
Social Security number

- If you have a job
  - Wait for SEVIS record to be registered
  - Complete new-hire paperwork with department (includes e-verify process)

- What you need to apply for an SSN
  - Passport, I-94 and visa
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Completed application for Social Security card
  - Social Security recommendation form

- Social Security Day at the International Center is January 20, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  Submit online document request for Social Security letter to participate.
Taxation services

Judy Todd  
Non-resident Alien Tax Specialist  
toddj@missouri.edu
Travel

- You may leave the U.S. at any time
- To re-enter the U.S., you must have valid:
  - Passport
  - U.S. visa
    - Except when traveling to Canada, Mexico and most Caribbean islands for less than 30 days
  - I-20 or DS-2019 **signed for travel**
    - Travel signatures must not be more than six months old at the time you re-enter the U.S.
Completion of studies

- After finishing your program, you have these options:
  - Leave the U.S. within 60 days (F) or 30 days (J)
  - Continue your studies at MU
  - Transfer to a different school
  - Begin working with authorized employment
  - Change to another visa status

- Each option has different regulations — contact an adviser for detailed information
Student Health Center

1020 Hitt St.
4th floor
Columbia, MO 65201
573-882-7481
studenthealth.missouri.edu
901 Virginia Avenue
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-7201
mupolice.missouri.edu
MU Police Department

- Legal drinking age in the United States is 21
- Alcohol is not permitted on campus
- If you are pulled over, remain in your vehicle and wait for an officer to approach you
- Self defense courses offered for men and women free of charge
In an emergency, dial 911
- Injury
- Serious crime
- Car accident

Do not call 911 for non-emergencies
- Someone is parked in your parking spot
- Problems with your apartment (broken pipes, heating, etc.)
Visa and immigration information

- International Center website (updated frequently)
  - international.missouri.edu/isss
- Workshops (see calendar for details)
  - international.missouri.edu/calendar
- Email and announcements
- Like us on Facebook: University of Missouri International Student Services