



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IMMIGRATION GUIDE

For Academic Advisors

The University of Oregon sponsors approximately 1000 international students on F-1 and J-1 student visas, including graduated students on Optional Practical Training. This Immigration Guide is an overview of basic immigration requirements for UO degree-seeking students. Please refer students to International Student & Scholar Services for additional information and guidance.

Full Course of Study Requirement

Students on F and J visas are required to enroll in a full course of study each term (at least 12 undergraduate / 9 graduate credits).

Reduced Course Load (RCL)

Reduced course loads (part-time study) can be authorized by ISSS only in specific situations:

- For initial academic difficulties, including difficulties with English, with reading requirements or US teaching methods, or for improper course placement
- For annual vacation taken during a non-summer term
- For documented illness, injury or mental health reasons
- For final term of study
- For Concurrent enrollment with another institution

Exceptions to full-time enrollment criteria can be found here:

<https://iss.s.uoregon.edu/reduced-course-load-exemptions>

Online Credits Limitation

Beginning Fall 2023, students may count only one (1) online course toward the minimum full course of study requirement. Undergrad students must be enrolled in at least 8 in-person credits each term, and grad students in at least 6 in-person credits each term.

Leave of Absence/Withdrawal

Students must obtain ISSS authorization to take a temporary or permanent leave from study. Graduate students must also receive Graduate School approval for on-leave status. In most cases, leave requires departure from the US for the authorized leave term(s).

Academic Progress and Grades

Students are expected to maintain good academic standing and make normal progress toward degree completion. Students facing academic probation or disqualification should be referred to ISSS for advising on academic resources and immigration consequences. Students dismissed or disqualified from the UO will also face termination of immigration status.

While student immigration status may not be immediately affected by isolated low or failing grades (e.g., "D", "F" or "N" grades), recurrent issues with academic performance may place the student in academic jeopardy and render the student ineligible for visa extensions or benefits.

On-Campus Employment

Students may engage in on-campus employment on a part-time basis not exceeding 20 hours per week while enrolled in classes. Full-time employment over 20 hours per week is permitted during annual vacation periods or when classes are not in session.

Off-Campus and Post-Completion Employment

Off-campus and post-completion employment are not permitted without the authorization of ISSS and/or the US Department of Homeland Security. Students interested in employment options must meet with an ISSS advisor to discuss application eligibility and procedures. In general, off-campus and post-completion employment must constitute practical training related to the student's field of study.

Student Address Information

Students are required to maintain up-to-date US residential address and contact information in DuckWeb. Address updates should be made in DuckWeb within 10 days of any move.

Social Security Verification

Students must obtain ISSS verification of eligibility for Social Security numbers. SSNs can only be issued to students with on-campus employment or authorized off-campus employment.

ISSS STAFF

Student Services:

Becky Crabtree, Associate Director
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Scholar Services:

Ethan Mapes, Intl Employment
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ADVISING AND APPOINTMENTS

Phone/Remote Advising:
Monday – Friday, 9am – 3pm
Call 541-346-3206

Walk-in Advising:
Monday – Friday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Oregon Hall, 3rd Floor

Appointments:
Call 541-346-3206

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<https://www.facebook.com/UOISSS>



<https://twitter.com/UOISSS>

ISSS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

International Student & Scholar Services offers a variety of programs to support the arrival, orientation, and academic and cultural integration of our international students.

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

- ❑ **International Student Orientation.** Required in-person orientation for new international students prior to the start of each term. <https://issss.uoregon.edu/iso>
- ❑ **Homestay Program (Friendship Foundation for International Students).** Free, short-term homestay program for new students before on-campus housing opens. Hosted by Friendship Foundation for International Students (FFIS). <https://ffisoregon.org>

FINANCIAL AND SCHOLARSHIP ADVISING

- ❑ **ISSS Scholarship Programs.** Merit and need-based scholarship programs for international students. Deadline for most scholarships is mid-February each year. <https://issss.uoregon.edu/financial-support>
- ❑ **Emergency Financial Aid.** Emergency financial aid program that provides limited, one-term assistance with tuition obligations. Students are required to show need due to unforeseen circumstances, such as loss of sponsor employment. <https://issss.uoregon.edu/emergency-financial-aid>
- ❑ **Tax Filing Support.** ISSS has partnered with Sprintax to assist international students with their annual tax filing obligations. <https://issss.uoregon.edu/tax-filing-support>

ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL SUPPORT

- ❑ **International Peer Mentor Program.** Peer mentors for new international freshman to foster relationship building and promote cultural adjustment and success.
- ❑ **Conversation Friend Program.** Friendship and conversation program with a local community member or an American student. <https://ffisoregon.org>

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ **Career Readiness Program.** Workshops and events offered fall, winter and spring terms. <https://issss.uoregon.edu/career-readiness-program-international-students>