Welcome to Miami University

New International Student Orientation
Visa Matters

First, a quick poll!
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- SEVIS
- Documents
- Staying “In Status”
- Travel and Reentry
- Employment
SEVIS

Student & Exchange Visitor Information System

- Schools are required to report certain information to SEVIS:
  - Student arrival to the school
  - Student enrollment – each semester
  - Change of address
  - Work authorization
  - Program completion date
  - Transfer to a different school
Let’s look at your documents!
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I-20
## U.S. Department of State

### CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR (J-1) STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Family Name:</th>
<th>Redhead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name:</td>
<td>Sweepr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Name:</td>
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### Personal Information

- **Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy):** 10-12-1996
- **City of Birth:*** Aksai
- **Country of Birth:*** KAZAKHSTAN
- **Citizenship Country Code:** KZ

### Program Details

- **Program Sponsor:** Miami University
- **Exchange Visitor Program Number:** P-1-00001
- **Program Title:** Visiting Scholar
- **Program Description:** Professor / Research Scholar / Short-Term Scholar / Specialist / Student Associate / Student Doctorate / Student Master's / Student Non-Degree

### Purpose of Stay

- **Purpose of Stay:** Begins new program, accompanied by no immediate family members.

### Program Details

- **Program Start Date:** 08-25-2008
- **Program End Date:** 08-31-2012

### Financial Information

- **Total Estimated Financial Support (U.S. $):** $182,230.00

### Signature Details

- **Signature:** Christopher Beard
- **Title:** Consul of the United States of America
- **Date:** 07/28/2008

### Exchange Visitor Certification

- **I have read and agree to the statement on item 2 on page 3 of this document.**

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**Visa Matters**

**DS-2019**
Once inside the US, it is okay for your visa to expire!
I-94 card

D/S = Duration of Status

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Duration of Status ends when:

• Program is completed
  - OR -
• I-20/DS-2019 expires
  - OR -
• Status is violated

Whichever comes first!
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Grace Period

• After **completion** of program, you may stay in the US (but not work) for:
  - an additional **60** days (**F-1** students)
  - an additional **30** days (**J-1** students)

• If you **withdraw or violate status**, you are only allowed to stay **0-15** days. See an international advisor!
Safeguard your documents!

- Keep them in a safe place
  - Can apply for state ID
- Do NOT throw them away (ever)!
- Make photocopies/soft copies
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Staying “in status” is important if you want to:

• Stay legally in the US
• Continue studying at Miami University
• Be eligible for employment on campus and off campus
• Be eligible to change visa status in the future
How to stay “In status”

- **Enroll Full-Time** (F-1 and J-1 students)
  - **Undergraduate**
    - Fall/Spring Semester = 12 credit hours
  - **Graduate**
    - Fall/Spring Semester = 9 credit hours
- Only 1 online course (3 credits) permitted per semester
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How to stay “In status”

• Less than full-time enrollment only permitted in certain limited circumstances (ex: illness, final semester)

• Contact an international advisor immediately if you are thinking about dropping below full-time

• You **MUST** have OIE permission to drop below full-time **BEFORE YOU DROP** (or you will be “out of status”)!
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How to stay “In status”

- Make sure your I-20 is issued by Miami and contains accurate information

- Do NOT rely on your academic department or Graduate School to notify OIE of changes in your degree level or funding. You need to tell OIE yourself!
How to stay “In status”

• Request an **extension** of your I-20 or DS-2019 if you cannot complete your studies by the date indicated

• Extension must be processed **before** the expiration of your I-20 or DS-2019 (or you will be “out of status”)
Physical Address

- **Must be kept up-to-date in BannerWeb**
- **Local address** – where you live while studying at Miami (dorm or off-campus apartment)
  - Must be reported to US government via SEVIS
  - OIE must be notified of your new address within 10 days of moving, every time you move!
  - To notify OIE, keep address updated in BannerWeb
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Travel and Reentry

• If you travel outside the US be sure to have all the documents you need to return (valid passport, valid student visa, and signed I-20 or DS-2019)

• Have your I-20 or DS-2019 signed by OIE before you depart!!! (request through InterLink in advance)

• Check to make sure everything is valid on your I-20 or DS-2019
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Travel and Reentry

- A valid F-1 or J-1 visa is needed to re-enter U.S. – may need to renew while abroad
- Special circumstances apply if you travel to Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands for 30 days or less—see international adviser
- If you travel to a country other than your home country, an entry visa may be required – OIE cannot advise!
On-Campus employment

• F-1 and J-1 students may work on-campus **20 hours per week** during the academic year (Fall and Spring) – this means 20 hours for **all jobs combined**!

• You may work on-campus full-time during university breaks (summer/winter/spring breaks)

• “On-campus” refers to employment for which Miami University is paying you
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On-campus employment

- F-1 students do **NOT** need special authorization to work on campus – you are already authorized

- **J-1 students must be authorized** for employment in writing by their program sponsor, **BEFORE** beginning employment!
  - Authorization will be given for one year maximum at a time
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Off-campus employment

- Do NOT work off campus without permission!

- Off-campus employment requires special authorization from OIE and/or USCIS
  - F-1 students: Curricular or Optional Practical Training (CPT or OPT) for employment directly related to field of study
    - Available after one year of study
  - J-1: Academic Training for off-campus work that is part of their academic program
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Not-so-obvious examples of unauthorized employment:

- Participating in an internship off-campus that is required for your degree
- Private tutoring in your field of study
- Accompanying for a recital, giving private lessons, or performing in an orchestra
- Helping your advisor with a few extra hours of work (above 20)

**NOTE:** Off-campus work outside your field of study (ex: working at a local restaurant) is **NOT** permitted!
Do **NOT** work illegally!

It is a **very** serious violation of your immigration status --

So don’t do it!
Immigration laws are taken very seriously in the U.S.

It’s your responsibility to know the immigration regulations that affect you and to maintain your legal status.

Do NOT rely on advice of well-meaning friends.
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- Read the weekly **OIE email update** and monthly **OIE Newsletter** for regular updates and announcements
- Read your Miami email!
- Talk to the International Student Advisors when you have questions
OIE Appointment System:

- Appointments are required for advising:
  - NO SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS or WALK-INS!!!
  - You must schedule your appointment at least 24 hours in advance!
  - To schedule an appointment, call OIE (529-5628) – don’t email!

- For brief questions, email OIE at international@muohio.edu

- You do NOT need an appointment to drop off or pick up a form, obtain an approved travel signature, or for emergencies
Email etiquette

- We will be able to serve you best if you follow these simple rules:
  - Do NOT email more than one staff member with the same question
  - Do NOT send an email more than once
  - Do NOT call our office shortly after emailing with the same question

- During busy times of year it may take 2-3 business days for a staff member to respond to your email
  - If your question is urgent, please call to schedule an appointment
InterLink

- OIE system for international student requests:
  - Travel signatures
  - Certificates of enrollment
  - Invitation letters
  - And more!
- Just go to [https://ioffice.muohio.edu](https://ioffice.muohio.edu) and log in with your Miami unique ID and password
- Once approved, OIE will email you
- You may then stop in for your travel signature or to pick up your document
Time for a Quiz!
Immigration Quiz

• Which of the following does NOT cause your status to end?

A. Completion of program and grace period
B. I-20 expiration
C. Visa expiration
D. Dropping below full-time without authorization
Immigration Quiz

• Which of the following activities are prohibited during your grace period?
  A. Preparing for departure
  B. Traveling around the US
  C. Departing the US and re-entering
  D. Working on campus
  E. C and D
• When you receive a new I-20, what should you do with the old one?
  A. Give to the OIE
  B. Give it to an Immigration Official
  C. Throw it in the garbage
  D. Keep it for your records
Immigration Quiz

• What should you do if your visa expires?

A. Nothing until the next time you travel
B. Depart the US immediately
C. Contact your embassy to have it renewed
D. Contact OIE to have it renewed
Immigration Quiz

It is acceptable to drop below full-time enrollment if:

A. You are failing a course
B. A doctor gives you permission
C. You cannot afford to pay tuition
D. You obtain authorization from the OIE
Immigration Quiz

Which of the following does NOT require special authorization from the OIE (for F-1s)?

A. A required internship off-campus
B. A part-time job at King Library
C. Tutoring local high school students for $$$
D. Working extra hours (more than 20) for your favorite professor
Immigration Quiz

Congratulations – you passed!

A+