Contact Us

Website: https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/
Email: international-affairs@uchicago.edu
Find your OIA Adviser: https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/directories
Phone: 773.702.7752
OIA’s services include:

- Helping international students, scholars, and their dependents navigate U.S. immigration regulations (F-1 and J-1 visa statuses)
- Providing advising services and supportive programming
- Supporting the university’s internationalization efforts
OIA’s role: Provide guidance and advice on immigration regulations and connect you with resources.

Your role as an international student: Read OIA’s communications and website to stay up to date on immigration updates. It is your responsibility to maintain your immigration status, but OIA is here to support you. Contact OIA if you have questions!
HOW OIA COMMUNICATES WITH YOU

Online

http://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu

http://facebook.com/ucoia

@uchicagooia

OIA News for International Students

Bi-weekly newsletter sent to your UChicago email address; includes important updates, helpful information, resources, upcoming events, and relevant opportunities.
MAINTAINING F-1 STATUS OVERVIEW

- Submit **online check-in form** (for your first time arriving in the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status)
- Maintain valid documents
  - F-1 I-20 or J-1 DS-2019
  - Passport
  - Visa
  - I-94
- Be enrolled full-time
- Work **ONLY** with authorization
- Report changes (i.e. address, citizenship, name changes)

**Visa vs. Status**

**Visa**: stamp in passport from US embassy, for entry purposes

**Status**: Program Dates
- F-1 (Form I-20)
- J-1 (Form DS-2019)
OIA CHECK-IN PROCESS

- Follow instructions on OIA Check-in Form
- Enter SEVIS Address in My.UChicago, in proper format
- Pull your I-94 Record
- Screenshot your I-94 & check for correct class of admission - should be F-1 or J-1.
- Contact OIA if I-94 is incorrect
TRAVEL ABROAD & RE-ENTRY

Necessary documents:

- Valid passport (6-months into future)
- Unexpired F-1/J-1 visa stamp
- Valid I-20/DS-2019
  - Travel signature is valid for 12 months.
  - Once expired, request a new signature.

Digitally emailed I-20’s are now allowed by the U.S. government. You should print and sign this document and carry the hard copy for your travels.

Traveling within the US? Carry your passport or other government-issued ID.
National Interest Exception (NIEs)

COVID-19 related entry restrictions remain in effect for anyone physically present in any of the following countries for 14-days prior to attempted entry into the U.S.: Brazil, China, Iran, South Africa, India, UK/Ireland, and the European Schengen area.

International students traveling to the U.S. from these countries will require a “National Interest Exception” (NIE) to successfully board a plane and arrive to the U.S.
National Interest Exception (NIEs) continued

- Students with valid F-1 visas intending to begin or continue an academic program commencing August 1, 2021 or later do not need to contact an embassy or consulate to seek an individual NIE to travel (specific to Brazil, China, Iran, South Africa and India). This automatic NIE is also in place for F-1 students traveling from the UK/Ireland or the Schengen area.
- Students with a valid J-1 visa should reach out to the U.S. consulate or embassy for an NIE.
- New students who will attend visa appointments will be issued NIEs at the time the visa is issued by the U.S. consulate or embassy.
- NIE’s are now valid for 12 months from date of issuance for multiple entries.
ADDITIONAL TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

COVID-19 Testing Requirements

Air passengers to the U.S. are required to get a viral test (a test for current infection) within the 3 days before their flight to the U.S. departs, and provide written documentation of their laboratory test result (paper or electronic copy) to the airline or provide documentation of having recovered from COVID-19.
Arrival Window

New students arriving for the first time to the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 visa may travel as early as 30 days prior to the program start-date listed on the I-20 or DS-2019 and as late as the start date of classes.

We do not recommend that you attempt to travel to the U.S. after classes have begun. Attempting to travel to the U.S. after September 27 may increase risk of being denied boarding or entry.

Autumn 2021 dates:

- Earliest Arrival Date: August 7, 2021
- I-20 Program Start Date: September 6, 2021
- Classes Start Date (latest arrival date): September 27, 2021
ENROLLMENT

- F-1 and J-1 student status requires full-time enrollment each academic quarter, excluding vacation quarter (summer).
- Considering an Academic Leave of Absence, Medical Leave of Absence, or early graduation? Discuss with your Academic Adviser and OIA.
F-1/J-1 visa holders are permitted to work **on-campus** within the I-20/DS-2019 program start and end dates:
- Less than 20 hrs/week while classes are in session
- Unlimited hours during official university breaks

**Off-campus** work (paid or unpaid) requires prior **authorization** from OIA.
- Types of off-campus work authorization:
  - F-1: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) & Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - J-1: Academic Training (AT)
- Students must first be enrolled and in active F-1 or J-1 status for a **full academic year (three quarters)** before eligible for off-campus work.
- Both paid and unpaid off-campus internship require authorization.
Important reminders:

- Any off-campus work without authorization is a violation of your immigration status.
- If you are unsure about whether a job/internship opportunity requires work authorization, contact OIA before starting work.
- Watch OIA newsletter for details about OIA employment authorization workshops throughout the academic year.
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Social Security Number (SSN): Tax identification number that tracks employee salary in a payroll system

**Instructions for SSN Application Process**

- Job offer (and work authorization) required
- On-campus work requires [SSN Support Letter](#) from OIA
- Safeguard SSN card once issued! If lost or stolen, this card can be used for identity theft
F-1 and J-1 students who were present in the U.S. during any portion of the calendar year will be required to file tax forms with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)—even if you did not work in the U.S., gain income in the U.S., or receive a scholarship during the past calendar year.

The OIA will provide further guidance each winter quarter. *Read your emails from OIA!*
CAMPUS RESOURCES

“Smart people ask for help”

- Resources for Daily Life in Chicago
- Student Wellness
  - Medical Services, Counseling, Insurance, Wellness
- College Core Tutor Program
- Department of Safety & Security
- Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support
- Center for Identity & Inclusion
  - Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, LGBTQ Student Life, Student Support Services for first generation, lower-income, undocumented, and immigrant students.
- Center for Leadership & Involvement
EXPLORING CHICAGO

- Hyde Park
  - Museum of Science & Industry
  - Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House
  - Promontory Point
  - Revival Theater
- South Side
  - White Sox – Bridgeport
  - Chinatown
  - Pilsen
- Other Chicago neighborhoods
  - The Loop
  - Lincoln Park, Lakeview, Uptown, Rogers Park, Logan Square, Wicker Park…
- Get Involved: Office of Civic Engagement
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Keep immigration documents safe – maintain both physical and electronic copies.

- OIA Website and Newsletters – dedicated information for F and J students with information about enrollment, arrival, travel restrictions and more.

- Beware of Scams! – Many students report receiving telephone calls from individuals pretending to be officials from government agencies. If you get a suspicious call, hang up! Government officials will not call you.

- Learn about campus resources – there are numerous offices dedicated to supporting students at UChicago who are either here in person or abroad and remote.
Welcome to UChicago!

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