In July, our Lincoln Center office moved to a new location: 45 Columbus Avenue, 3rd Floor, suite 315. Please respect the advisement hours posted on our website and on the doors of our offices at LC. Additionally, if an advisor’s door is closed, please respect it. If the door is closed, that means the advisor is not available. Please refrain from knocking on the door if the door is closed. Phone calls to the OIS, whether to 212-636-6270 or to 718-817-3145, will all be forwarded to the Rose Hill office. Therefore, if you are a Lincoln Center student calling the OIS, please understand that you will probably be speaking with a Rose Hill advisor, and we will do our absolute best to help you, but it may be challenging because we won’t have access to your file, and we may not know all the details of your program.

For all students: we highly recommend that you email us, rather than call. This will help ensure that the most appropriate person responds to your queries, and that the information you receive is most appropriate to your situation.

Our email address is ois@fordham.edu

Important Note About OPT

You may have heard rumors and news about issues pertaining to OPT and STEM. At this moment, there is NO new information on these issues, and we will notify you when we know. At this moment, if you are on OPT, the best advice is to continue to search for appropriate employment, keep records of such search, and once you do obtain employment, notify OIS with your employer’s name and address.

Make Sure Your Address is Up To Date!

It is extremely important that the OIS always knows your most current local US address and your foreign permanent address, because we are required to send that information to SEVIS.

REMEmBER: your permanent address should always be a foreign address, never within the US!

Any time you move (from on campus to off campus, or from one apartment to another), make sure to update your address!

To update your address:
1. Login to my.fordham.edu
2. Select the Student tab on the top left
3. Select the Student Accounts tab under My Account
4. Select the Personal Information tab on the top left
5. Select Update Addresses and Phones

Non-University Local: Current US local address (you MUST update this even if you update your Mailing address)
Permanent: Current Home Address
OPT—Optional Practical Training

If you are completing your studies in December 2015 and you wish to apply for OPT, you may apply NOW. The latest you can apply is 60 days after your program completion date; however, we recommend applying sooner rather than later in most cases. As you will see in the article below about completion dates, your real completion date (reality) is more important than the completion date in Sec. 5 on your I-20.

Please avoid filing for OPT after your completion date. It usually takes 2-3 months to receive your EAD (OPT) card in the mail after filing your application.

If you are working under CPT and plan to continue employment through the Spring term, make sure the CPT authorization on page 3 of your I-20 includes the Spring months. If it does not, you will need a new CPT authorization. If you are working under OPT and wish to continue your employment in the Spring, make sure your EAD card includes the Spring months.

Completion Date

The completion date on your I-20/DS-2019 should always be the date that you will complete your studies.

For F-1s, this date is in section 5 of your I-20. For J-1s, this date is in section 3 of your DS-2019. If you will need more time, or will complete earlier than the date on your I-20/DS-2019, you should first speak with your academic advisor (grad students) or class dean (undergrads). Then, let us know, AND ask your academic advisor/class dean to email us confirming the new expected completion date and the reason for the change. After that, we can update your SEVIS info and issue a new I-20/DS-2019.

If the completion date on your I-20/DS-2019 is in the future, but you have completed your studies, your I-20 completion date is not as important as reality! You should NEVER leave the US and try to re-enter just because your I-20/DS-2019 completion date is in the future. Your real/actual completion date is more important than the date on the I-20/DS-2019.

Full Time Enrollment

F-1 students must be enrolled in classes full time every semester. Full time is 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduates. Failure to enroll full time means that you are violating your F-1 status. Therefore, if you will be enrolled less than full time, you must submit a completed Deviation From Full Course of Study Requirements form to the OIS office immediately. This form should be submitted within the first 3 weeks of the semester. You can find the Deviation Form on the Reduced Course Load page of the OIS website.

Impact Initiative

Fordham University has an official relationship with the UN Department of Public Information. (UNDP) Would you like to attend an NGO briefing at the UN? Meet high level UN officials and members of the NGO community?

Join our Facebook page under “Fordham University Impact Initiative” and get the latest updates about UN events and opportunities.
Global Transition

Global Transition (GT) is the name of the 5-day welcome program for new international undergraduate students coming to Fordham. It is full of fun, interesting, and helpful activities and sessions, and is a great way for new international students to get to know New York, Fordham, and other Fordham students! GT 2015 was a great success, and we are already preparing for GT 2016!

This program is an exciting way for current undergrad students, both international and domestic, to get to know each other and the incoming international class.

If you would like to be part of the program and lead a group of new students during GT 2016, then keep your eyes open for our Global Transition Assistant application, which will be available in late January. Global Transition Assistants say that they have a lot of fun and make a lot of great friendships while assisting with GT. If you want to help new international students adjust to life at Fordham, Global Transition is the way to do it!

Please check the GT website frequently for updates: www.fordham.edu/gt

Global Transition 2016 will run from Tuesday, August 23—Saturday, August 27, 2016.

Upcoming Events In/Near NYC

One To World is a great organization which hosts a lot of fun and interesting events and activities for international students who attend universities in New York City. This fall, they are offering:

- Cultural Cuisine
- Mozart & Haydn Concert
- Thanksgiving Day in Fairfield County, CT or in Westchester County, NY
- Thanksgiving Weekend in Lancaster, PA
- Community Service: Help the Hungry and Homeless

Please click the links to see more info about the event and registration. Check out One To World’s website for more info and events!

And, don’t forget to complete the survey about your experience at Fordham!:
https://fordham.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_e1aZhZXLpVqRGYt