Important Travel Reminders

Make sure your travel documents are properly prepared and endorsed! Remember that a valid I-20 must have a completion date which is in the future, and it must also have a valid travel signature. For F-1 students who are continuing their studies, the travel signature is good for 1 year. For F-1s on OPT, the travel signature is good for 6 months. To re-enter the US, you will need:
- valid passport
- Valid visa (if your visa will be expired on the day that you will re-enter the US, you must first renew your visa
- Your I-20/DS-2019 with valid (less than 1 year old) travel signature
- If you are on OPT and will be traveling outside the US, you should also bring your EAD card and proof of your employment (such as an offer letter) or proof of your efforts to find a job. If you have applied for OPT but have not yet received your EAD card, you should bring your Approval Notice and/or Receipt Notice.

When you re-enter the US, if you do not have your I-20 / DS-2019, or if the signature is not valid, you can ask the officer to issue you a Form I-515. This will allow you to enter the US. Once you are in the US, you must make an appointment with us immediately so we can fix your I-515 status.

The OIS does not require you to submit your I-94 to us whenever you travel, but we do recommend that you obtain your I-94 record online from www.cbp.gov/i94 each time you re-enter the US. Your “Admit Until” date should always say “D/S”. You will not be able to retrieve your I-94 if you are outside the US, because the I-94 is an entry document.

For more information about travel, please see the Travel page of our website.

Grace Period
F-1 students have a 60 day grace period and J-1 students have a 30 day grace period. During this time, you may stay in the US. However, if you leave the US during the grace period, you will NOT be able to re-enter.

Important Travel Updates
Though it is not required, we advise you to bring proof of your SEVIS Fee (I-901) payment, such as the payment receipt, when you travel. Recently, some students have been stopped because the officer could not locate that proof of payment.

If you have more than one I-20, always make sure you show the officer the current (most recently issued) I-20.
I-20/DS-2019 Completion Date Info

Please look at section 5 of your I-20 (or section 3 of your DS-2019). What is the completion date? If that date is NOT the date that you plan to complete your studies, you must contact us immediately. If your completion date is at the end of this term, but you will need more time, OR if your completion date is for a future term, but you will complete your studies this term, you must let us know. If for any reason the completion date on your I-20 is not accurate, you must inform us so that we can help you maintain your F-1/J-1 status.

Remember that reality is always more important than what is written on your I-20/DS-2019! You should NEVER try to re-enter the US with an I-20/DS-2019 just because the date is still valid. If you have already completed your studies, the I-20 is no longer valid regardless of the date. Please note that the graduation date and the completion date are not necessarily the same. The completion date on your I-20/DS-2019 should reflect the date that you intend to complete all degree requirements, not the date of your graduation ceremony.

OPT Employment Reporting Updates and Reminders

SEVP Portal Launched on March 23, 2018
The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has launched the SEVP Portal, which is a tool that F-1 students on Post-Completion OPT can use to report changes to their home address, telephone number and employment information. Once the information is reported to the SEVP Portal, the Portal will forward information to the student’s SEVIS record. Students who are under STEM OPT can also update home address and telephone number through the SEVP Portal. However, for any employment information update STEM students should contact an OIS advisor due to the complexity of the regulatory requirements for STEM OPT. The Portal is accessible from both your mobile device and computer. Please note that SEVP will never charge you to access the SEVP Portal. For more information regarding Post-Completion OPT reporting responsibilities and how to use the SEVP Portal, please go to the OIS website Post-OPT Responsibilities section for more information. For STEM OPT responsibilities and how to use SEVP Portal while under STEM OPT, please see here.

OPT Reminders:
* F-1 OPT regulations require students on post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) to report employment/change of employment within 10 days.
* You should only report your employment to SEVIS if you work for more than 20 hours per week.
* If you have multiple employments which combined working hours are more than 20 hours per week, you can report them and select the ‘part time’ field. However, if your combined employment drop below 20 hours per week, you must report and end to both/all employments.
* If you are currently unemployed under OPT and plan to travel outside of the U.S., you should consult with OIS before you travel.
Fordham UN Impact Initiative Events

There will be a trip to the UN with the Fordham Impact Initiative group on May 3rd to hear an UN DPI NGO briefing in honor of World Press Freedom Day. Use this link to RSVP: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7fu5KpKHCCk1ZyM8Mm18RkK5D6Sm- PH4XBzQxyeSZ1og/viewform

The group is currently looking for two new students to take on the exciting role of Fordham’s NGO youth reps at the UN. This is a valuable experiential learning experience where the selected students receive a UN badge and can attend many high level/NGO events at the UN.

Apply now for Fall 2018 start: https://fordhamimpactinitiative.wordpress.com/call-for-new-youth-reps/

Career Services Wants to Help You!

Are you a senior getting ready to graduate? First of all, congratulations! Secondly, have you reported your post-graduation intentions on Handshake yet? Whether you’ll be working, going to graduate school, taking time off, volunteering, or anything else, we have options for you to report. If you’re still looking, reporting helps us know to reach out and offer assistance with your job search!

You can report by logging into your Handshake account at fordham.joinhandshake.com and clicking “Share my first destination!” at the top of the homepage.

Want a free Senior Ball or Boat Cruise ticket? Fill out this survey letting us know what you’re doing after graduation, and you’ll be entered in a chance to win! Each week we’ll be giving out gift cards to one random winner as well, so the earlier you report, the more chances you have to win!

Feel like skipping a long line? Fill out the survey now and you’ll be on the “fast-track” at Graduate Salute later this month! We’ll be in touch with more details.

Why do we want this information? To help you! Every Friday in April we’ll be sending out a newsletter with full-time job postings, grad school deadlines, and service program opportunities. If we know you’re still seeking, we can customize this information for you! And if you already have plans for after graduation, letting us know what those plans are helps future Fordham students realize what opportunities are out there!

Questions? Feel free to reach out to careerinsights@fordham.edu. Not sure how to categorize your post-grad intention? Check out our instructions here.

Note: This is for undergraduate seniors only.

Reminder for J-1 Exchange Students

Don’t forget to request an official transcript from the Office of Enrollment Services before you leave for the semester. If possible, please pick-up this transcript before leaving New York City and deliver it to your home university’s study abroad office.

OIS Hours

We would like to remind our students of the times and ways that you can get service from the OIS. In addition to seeing students, we have many time-sensitive duties and other responsibilities, which are required to keep you in valid status. Coming as a walk-in outside of the walk-in hours listed prevents us from being able to do so. If you come outside of the times listed here, OIS might not be able to assist you. YOU are responsible for knowing our hours and making sure you come at the appropriate time.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lincoln Center</th>
<th>Rose Hill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pick-Up/Drop-Off</strong></td>
<td>Monday—Thursday 10:00am—4:00pm</td>
<td>Monday—Friday 10:00am—4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Walk In</strong></td>
<td>Tuesdays 10:00am—1:00pm Thrusdays 2:00pm—4:00pm</td>
<td>Monday—Thursday 10:00am—4:00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Appointments</strong></td>
<td>refer to our online appointment scheduler</td>
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