Important Reminders to F-1 Students

- Make sure your address and US phone number information is up-to-date and correct in my.fordham.edu!
- Enroll Full-Time! All students must be enrolled full-time in classes. This means at least 9 credits/term for graduate students, and at least 12 credits/term for undergrads. Only students in their last term may be less than full-time.
- If you are NOT in your last term, but you will be enrolled less than full-time, you must complete our Deviation from Full Course of Study form.
- F1 regulation about taking online courses: If this is your last term before completing your program, your last course cannot be an online course if that is the only course you have to take in order to graduate.
- Check your I-20 completion date! If you now plan to complete your program earlier or later than the date on your I-20, email ois@fordham.edu to let us know. We will need to update SEVIS (I-20) with your new expected completion date.

Completion Date

The completion date on your I-20/DS-2019 should always be the date that you will complete your studies. Refer to the Program Start/End date to check your program end date.

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.**

You should always notify OIS if your actual program completion date is different from the current I-20/DS-2019 you have.
Diversity Lottery

Applications for the US Department of State’s Diversity Visa Lottery Program must be submitted electronically by 12:00pm (EST) on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form (E-DV) at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. Paper entries will NOT be accepted. DoS urges those who plan to apply to do so early, since heavy demand at the end of the filing period may result in web-site delays.

For detailed information about entry requirements, ineligible countries, as well as frequently asked questions about the DV Lottery, please see the instructions for the DV-2020 Diversity Visa Lottery on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website: https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Diversity-Visa/DV-Instructions-DV-2020-Instructions-Translations/DV-2020-Instructions-English.pdf

If you file more than one application, all applications will be disqualified. You MUST print the confirmation screen using the print function of your web browser, so make sure to have a printer available.

You do not need an attorney to apply for this, but, if you do win, you should obtain an attorney immediately!

Update Your Address!

Please make sure your US local ad-dress is up to date! If you have moved out of your previous US address, or if you lived in university housing last semester but will live off-campus this fall, you MUST update your address on your my.fordham account! SEVIS (Federal Law) requires this information, and the OIS would rather not have to bother you for this information. By checking and updating your information on my.fordham.edu, you can satisfy the Federal requirement and save the OIS from having to send you emails.

To update your address and phone number: 1) log in to my.fordham.edu 2) click on the Student tab 3) click on the Banner Self-Service folder, and then the Information folder in the My Information portal 4) click on Update Addresses and Phone

**Non-University Local:** Current US local address. This field is REQUIRED for anyone not living in university housing!!

You must enter your US phone number here, too!

**Permanent:** Current home address in another country (not the US!)

**Mailing:** Wherever you want mail to be sent to

**Billing:** Wherever you want bills sent to

Your my.fordham account is also where you can update your email address and phone number.

If you are not able to update your address and phone number using my.fordham, please just send an email to ois@fordham.edu telling us your new address and phone number.

Reminder: the way you write your US address is important! You should write your US address following this model:

```
Street # Street Name Apartment #
City, State, Zip code
```

For example:

97 W 50th Street Apt 12C
New York, NY 10023

For Undergraduates

Global Transition Society

The Global Transition Society provides continued support, fun social events, and useful info sessions for international undergrad students during the semester. The first event of the semester—Tacos and Trivia—will be held at Rose Hill on **Wednesday, October 17 at 7:30pm**, in McGinley 241 (LC and RH students are all invited).

Other events in store for this year are a career services session specifically designed for international students, Friendsgiving (during the Thanksgiving holiday), and an international banquet are some of the great events planned for this year. This group is open to any and all undergraduates only. Look out for emails from gtsociety@fordham.edu And be sure to join us on Facebook: search for **Global Transition Society**

Career Services International Student Panel

Career Services will host an International Student Panel, featuring graduat-ed students currently working in the US. You will have the opportunity to hear their experience and tips, and to ask them questions.

**Date:** Thursday, November 1
**Time:** 5:30pm—7:00pm
**Location:** Lowenstein South Lounge
Pay Attention: Scam Emails and Calls

Recently, students in the US have reported that they receive phone calls from a DHL representative telling them that a package they sent from the US to Shanghai has been stopped by Chinese customs. The package supposedly contains fake passports, debit cards, etc. In each case, the students sent no such package.

The student is then “transferred” to the Shanghai Police who proceed to have a scary discussion about a large, long running money laundering case. In each case, the students are asked to give their Chinese ID numbers. In each case, the students are encouraged to leave the US for China to complete an official statement. It is at this point the students really begin to pause and question the call. At no point are the students asked for money, nor are they instructed to follow through on any tasks, however when they begin to question the “police,” the call is ended by the police or the police tell the student to hang up, which they do.

Some research online has identified similar cases in Australia and the UK, but since the students were not asked for money or to do anything in particular.

Scams also exist which seek to take advantage of international student tuition payment. Please review the information on this website for very useful tips to avoid scams.

Study NY Photo Contest

This year marks the 4th annual Study New York International Student Photo Contest for “Why I love studying in New York”. Photo submitted to the contest must have been taken between January 1—October 31, 2018. The deadline to submit a photo is October 31 at 11:59pm.

There are multiple categories for submission. Find all the information on the Study NY Website for the Contest.

The winners will receive $100 Amazon gift cards!

Employment Info

OPT: Optional Practical Training

If you are completing your studies in December 2018 and you wish to apply for OPT, you can 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 saw in the article on page 1 about completion dates, your real completion date (reality) is more important than what is written in the completion date in Sec. 5 on your I-20.

Please avoid filing for OPT after your completion date. The average USCIS processing time for OPT applications has increased: it now takes 3.5—5 months to receive your EAD (OPT) card in the mail after filing your application.

After you receive your EAD card from USCIS and you have obtained employment, you must report your using the SEVP Student Portal. You will receive an email from SEVP to set up your Portal once your OPT application has been approved.

CPT: Curricular Practical Training

CPT is issued per semester. If you are working under CPT and plan to continue employment into the fall 2018 term, make sure the CPT authorization on page 2 of your I-20 includes the spring months. If it does not, you will need a new CPT authorization.

If you are currently working under CPT and wish to continue your intern-ship/employment in the spring while still a student, you must apply for a new CPT authorization for the spring semester.

Please be sure to apply for CPT work authorization BEFORE starting work. It is illegal to work prior to obtaining CPT authorization. OIS cannot back-date CPT employment.