



HOT TOPICS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

March 23, 2021
International Student
& Scholar Services

Office of
International Programs
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Quick Overview of Most Common Visa Statuses on WSU Campus

- ☐ F-1 (Student Status)
- ☐ J-1 (Cultural Exchange with several sub-sections)
 - J-1 Student (Exchange, Fulbright, Sponsored Student)
 - J-1 Research Scholar
 - J-1 Short Term Scholar
- ☐ H-1B (Employee Visa)
- ☐ TN (Employee status unique to NAFTA)
- ☐ Each status has unique benefits and restrictions regarding employment and study.

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Current Hot Topics/Concerns with Student & Scholar Population

- ☐ Visa Denials, Delays and Administrative Processing
- ☐ Change of Status Process and Time Involved
- ☐ Employment Authorization
 - CPT Regulations
 - Scholars
- ☐ Academic Integrity and Student Conduct
 - Cultural Norms
 - ISSS Actions

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Visa Denials, Delays and Administrative Processing

- ❑ Previous U.S government policy increased review of visa applications. It will take some time for changes to take effect
- ❑ Due to political/economic situation in country and relations with U.S, visa denials are subjective and vary from country to country.
- ❑ Some applications are subject to administrative processing (additional review by U.S government):
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/administrative-processing-information.html>
- ❑ Recommendation: Advise applicants to apply early (several months ahead of preferred start date).
- ❑ Keep ISSS updated on denials and administrative processing delays.

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Biden's immigration reform

- ❑ Revoked Public Charge Rule
- ❑ Expanded TPS options
- ❑ Make easier for international students in STEM fields to stay and work after graduation.
- ❑ Revoked the Trump administration's so-called "Muslim ban" and other restrictions on travel and entry
- ❑ Commitment to "lead with science and truth" and attract top global talent to the U.S. for exchange
- ❑ Eliminate "county quota" for U.S. Permanent Residency

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Change of Status

- ❑ If a student/employee's current immigration status is expiring or they are not eligible for certain study/work benefits in their current visa category, they may be eligible to change their status.
- ❑ For changes of status to F-1, J-1 or any other applicable non-immigrant visa category, there are two ways this can occur, once they have met eligibility requirements for issuance of I-20/DS-2019.
 - Upon receipt of new DS-2019/I-20, they depart the U.S and apply for new visa status at U.S consulate outside the United States, and re-enter;
 - Upon receipt of DS-2019/I-20, they can apply for Change of Status in the U.S.

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Change of Status Timeline Concerns

- ❑ In Country Change of Status are averaging about 9 months for processing time.
 - Depending on previous status, student may not be eligible to study full time during this period.
 - Student is not eligible to work on campus (including assistantship) during this time unless their previous status allows for employment at WSU: <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>
- ❑ New Visa Outside of U.S.
 - Concern of Students: Visa denials, Travel Expense, Covid-19 Embassy/Consulate closures

Change of Status – WSU Sponsorship for Scholars


- ❑ Important Things to Note:
 - Eligibility for Status
 - Processing Times
 - Costs
 - Additional Concerns?

Employment Authorization: CPT versus OPT

- ❑ F-1 Students can work up to 20hs/week on campus without any additional authorization. (Allowance for full time work when classes are not in session)
- ❑ Any additional work on campus or off campus must be authorized by USCIS or ISSS prior to the start of employment.
- ❑ Employment benefits are one of the most closely monitored by USCIS, so working off campus without authorization requires termination of student's SEVIS record.
- ❑ Two of the most common work authorizations: CPT and OPT
- ❑ Government does have a hardship employment authorization for students whose economic circumstances have greatly changed since they were accepted. (Loss of Assistantship, Civil War in home country, etc.)

CPT Versus OPT

CPT	OPT
Student has not yet completed degree requirements.	Most often used after student has completed degree requirements, but there is an option for pre-completion OPT.
Authorized on a semester by semester basis through ISSS.	Authorized by USCIS for up to one year.
Internship must be part of the established curriculum (requirement, elective counting towards requirement, cooperative agreement) *	Internship must simply be related to major.
With few exceptions, student must be concurrently enrolled in class connected to internship	No concurrent enrollment required.


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How is curricular nature documented?

☐ As the U.S government has created Optional Practical Training for optional internships that are considered beneficial/helpful to the student, Curricular Practical Training is for internships that go beyond being beneficial/helpful and are part of an established curriculum.

- **Program Requirement for All Students:**
 - For any student in the program to graduate, they must complete a work experience. This is documented in catalog/website.
- **Elective Option:**
 - Internship counts towards one of the electives to be used towards the student's degree.
- **Thesis/Dissertation:**
 - Internship is needed to gain information/skills for the student's research for thesis/dissertation.
- **Co-operative Agreement:**
 - Internship is part of an established co-operative agreement between department/WSU and employer.

☐ The most important part is document, document, document. Clear information showing that this is an established part of the curriculum and not just an optional internship that will benefit the student's future career is needed.

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Academic Integrity Concerns

☐ **Academic Integrity**

1. What is plagiarism? *
2. Impacts of plagiarism and immigration status
 1. Visa revocation
3. Group learning versus individual work


☐ **Discussion Based/Active Learning**

☐ **Use of Syllabus and online components**
(e.g. Blackboard)

☐ **UCORE classes**
Importance of classes not in major

☐ **Focus on Initiative**
(Ask questions, find out answers on your own)

☐ **Assistance**
(Office hours, tutoring, writing center). Stigma/Fear of asking for help.

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Have Questions?

Global Services advisors are happy to meet with advisors and do departmental presentations upon request. Please feel free to reach out to us.

Scholar Questions?

ip.scholars@wsu.edu

Student Questions?

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