



***Welcome,  
International Students!***

**Spring 2021**

***Transfer Student  
Immigration  
Information***

## Role of International Education Services (IES)

- We are your F-1 Immigration Experts!
- We also help you adjust to being in the U.S. and offer cultural and social activities
- Do you have questions and don't know who to ask? Start with us!

## Stay connected with IES

- IES Notes email list – read your email!
- MyUMBC Group – IES Marketplace
- IES website: [ies.umbc.edu](http://ies.umbc.edu)
- IES Portal: [ies-portal.umbc.edu](http://ies-portal.umbc.edu)
- Link for short Walk-In appointments
- Email for an appointment: [ies@umbc.edu](mailto:ies@umbc.edu)
- Call 410-455-2624

# Follow us on Social Media!

We're online! Follow us to learn about IES activities. Tag us in your adventures on campus and the U.S.



@UMBC\_IES\_



@UMBC\_IES

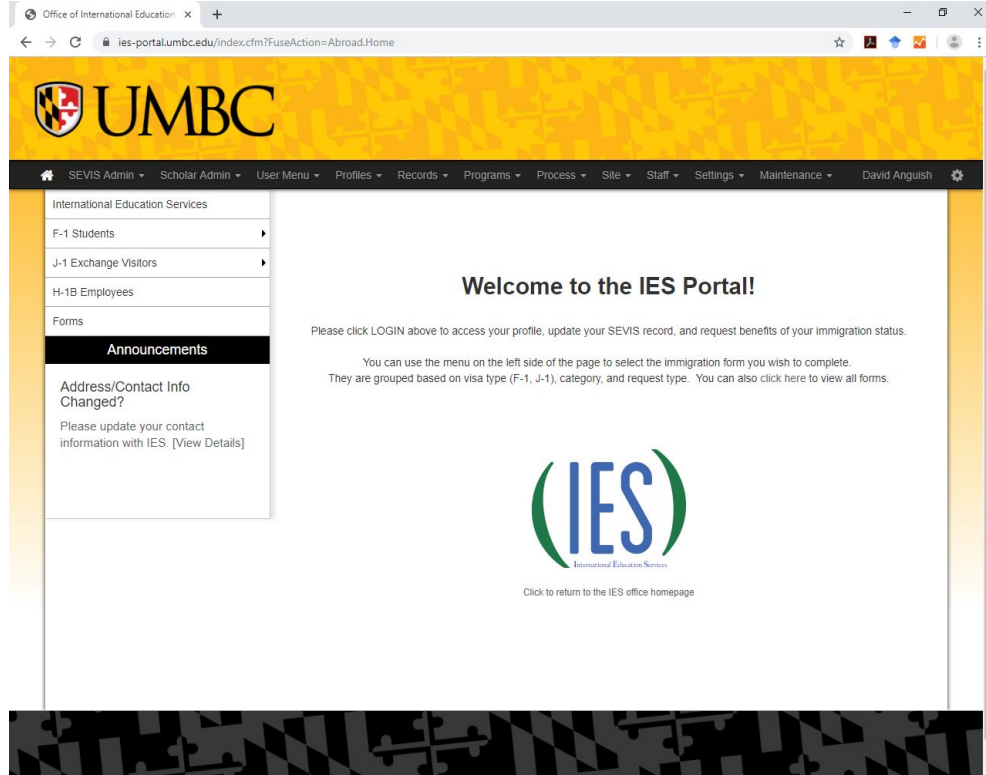


UMBCIES

# IES Portal

IES has gone  
paperless!

All electronic  
applications via the  
IES Portal



## IES Portal

- Centralized system for all immigration applications and requests for documents
- Personal account to upload and manage all secure documents
- Personalized reminders for deadlines, electronic advisor signatures on applications, and much more!

# “Visa” versus “Status”

## F-1 Status vs. F-1 Visa

- It is very important to clarify these two legal terms in order to understand how to maintain your immigration status in the U.S.
- The terms "**visa**" and "**status**" can be easily confused, but they are different things!



# Visa

- Functions as a key, or pass, to enter the U.S.
- Defines why you are coming (F-1 = student)
- Stamp/sticker in your passport

The visa is only for entering the US, and in F-1 status, does not have a role beyond that purpose.

# Status

- Ability to remain legally in the US
- At the Port of Entry (when you enter the US and go through Customs) you are granted a specific kind of immigration status, like F-1 status
- Recorded on I-94
- Your status determines the rules you have to follow, and the options you have, while in the US

## Visa vs. Status

- Example Time – Let's Go To The Movies!
- Movie ticket = visa
- Your movie = status (can only stay for the duration of the reason you entered)

# Immigration Documents Overview for Transfer Students

# Immigration Documents

- Passport
- Visa
- I-94 record
- I-20

## Transfer Considerations

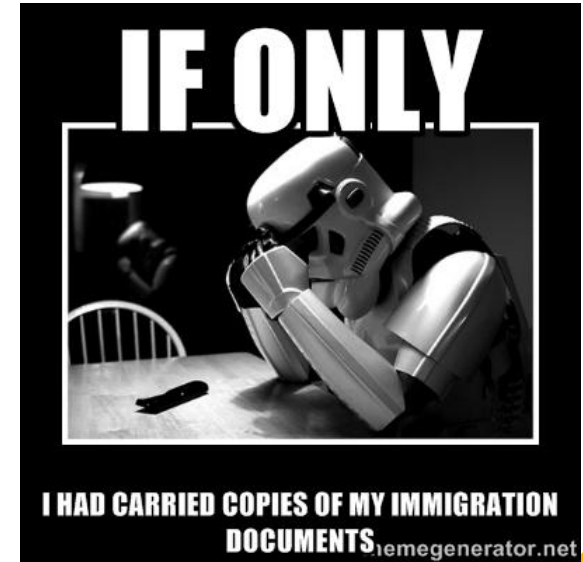
- **Visa** can continue to be used as long as it is valid, even if your school has changed from the one on the visa
- **I-94** should continue to be checked each time you entered the US - if you left for a vacation before returning to start at UMBC, please check your I-94 online!
  - Check that the “class of admission” is F-1
  - Check that the “Admit Until” date is D/S

## Transfer I-20

- **MUST be a UMBC I-20!!**
- **“Transfer Pending” I-20**
  - Issued before you start your first semester at UMBC
  - Shows that you are in between programs
  - Does NOT work for MVA (licensing), SSN application
- **“Continued Attendance” I-20**
  - Available after IES has verified your full-time enrollment and that you are on campus
  - Needed for MVA, SSN
  - Usually available 2-4 weeks after semester begins, or on request

## Documents to Carry

- Carry the following with you AT ALL TIMES:
  - COPIES of passport, visa, I-94, and I-20
- Carry if you have them:
  - Maryland/State Driver's License
  - Maryland/State ID
  - International Driver's License and translation





## Quiz Time!

1. Which document assigns your immigration status when you arrive in the US?

I-20 or I-94?

2. What document must not expire while you are in the US?

I-20 or passport or visa?

3. What document cannot be renewed in the US?

visa or I-20 or passport?

“Maintaining Status” - following F-1 rules

# Maintaining Status and Loss of Status

- “Loss of status” or “out of status” means you no longer have a legal immigration status in the US
- Results from breaking F-1 rules
- No F-1 benefits (employment)
- Reinstatement
- Bars to returning to the US

## How can you lose your Status?

- If you do not register for a full-time course load
- If you let your I-20 end date expire
- If you work off-campus without authorization
- If you break the law and are arrested for more than a minor offense

## Maintaining your F-1 Status: Course Registration

- You have to be registered at UMBC!
- Optional to register during Summer and Winter breaks - not required
- Must be registered “full time” during Fall and Spring semesters – we check!
- May take a class at another campus also (must speak with academic advisor first)

## Maintaining your F-1 Status: Online coursework

- Online coursework is limited by F-1 immigration regulations, OUTSIDE OF COVID
- Only one online course per semester; can't be only last class
- During COVID, can enroll all online, no restrictions

## Definition of “Full-Time Enrollment” at UMBC

- Undergraduate students:
  - 12 credit hours minimum Fall and Spring semester
- Graduate Students:
  - 9 credits per semester in fall and spring semester.
  - Full-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 4 academic credits
  - Part-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 6 academic credits

## “Reduced Course Load”

- Few exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirement:
  - Medical (physical or mental health challenges)
  - Academic (can only be approved once):
    - “Improper Course Placement”
- MUST be approved by IES before dropping below full-time



## Work Options Summary

- On-campus work (immediate)
- Off-campus work:
  - CPT (after 2 semesters)
  - OPT (after graduation)
  - STEM OPT Extension
- Career Center

## Notes on CPT and OPT

- CPT is widely available at UMBC, and usually involves the Career Center
- CPT and OPT require at least 2 full-time semesters completed in the US - we can count time done at a previous school towards this requirement, as long as there has not been a break in F-1 status since last attending school

## Other IES Services - Income Tax Filing

Tax returns are filed every year to summarize how much tax money you have paid on your income, and if you owe more or are due a refund back.

- Annual Tax Returns are due each year around April 15 – we provide free software (Sprintax - don't use non-NRA products!)
- **ALL students are required to file income tax forms** whether you earn any income or not.

## Other IES Services - Driver's License/State ID

- Foreign license valid only for **THREE MONTHS** before you are required to obtain a U.S. license.
- IES office has Drivers Handbook copies; more information is on our website
- MVA (Motor Vehicle Administration) also offers State ID Cards

# Ambassador Q and A with Ayo!

- Do you have any advice for new transfer students from your own experience?
- Was there anything we covered here that you found confusing when you transferred - any questions we should be talking about?
- Is there anything you find to be unique and special about UMBC?
- Any insider tips to share?

## In Summary:

- Maintain your status!
- Register full-time
- Keep I-20 current
- Follow employment guidelines closely
- Don't break US laws
- Keep in touch with the IES office!

Please Remember:

**Your immigration status is your  
responsibility!**

We are here to assist you in maintaining it so that  
your experience in the US is enjoyable and  
fruitful.

# Questions?

IES Office, Administration Building, 2nd Floor

[ies@umbc.edu](mailto:ies@umbc.edu), 410-455-2624, [ies.umbc.edu](http://ies.umbc.edu)

## **F-1 International Student Advisers:**

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