

Welcome International Students!

**Transfer Student
Immigration Information**



Questions? Need assistance?

Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:



CPT: Off-Campus
Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers
(SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Request a Letter



OPT: Post-Graduation
Work Authorization



STEM OPT Extension



Extend Your F-1 Program
(I-20)



Change of Immigration
Status



New Students!

Fall 2021 International Student Arrival Guide



Something else?

See below to contact us!

Appointment required
iss.umbc.edu/contact/
University Center, 207



Stay connected with ISSS



ISSS email list:
Read your email!



ISSS Portal:
iss-portal.umbc.edu



myUMBC Group:
ISSS Marketplace



Advising Appointments
iss.umbc.edu/contact/



ISSS website:
iss.umbc.edu

Answers to most
of your questions
can be found here!



Follow us on social media!

We're online! Follow us to learn about ISSS activities.



Facebook:
umbcisss



Twitter:
@umbc_iss



Instagram:
@umbc_iss

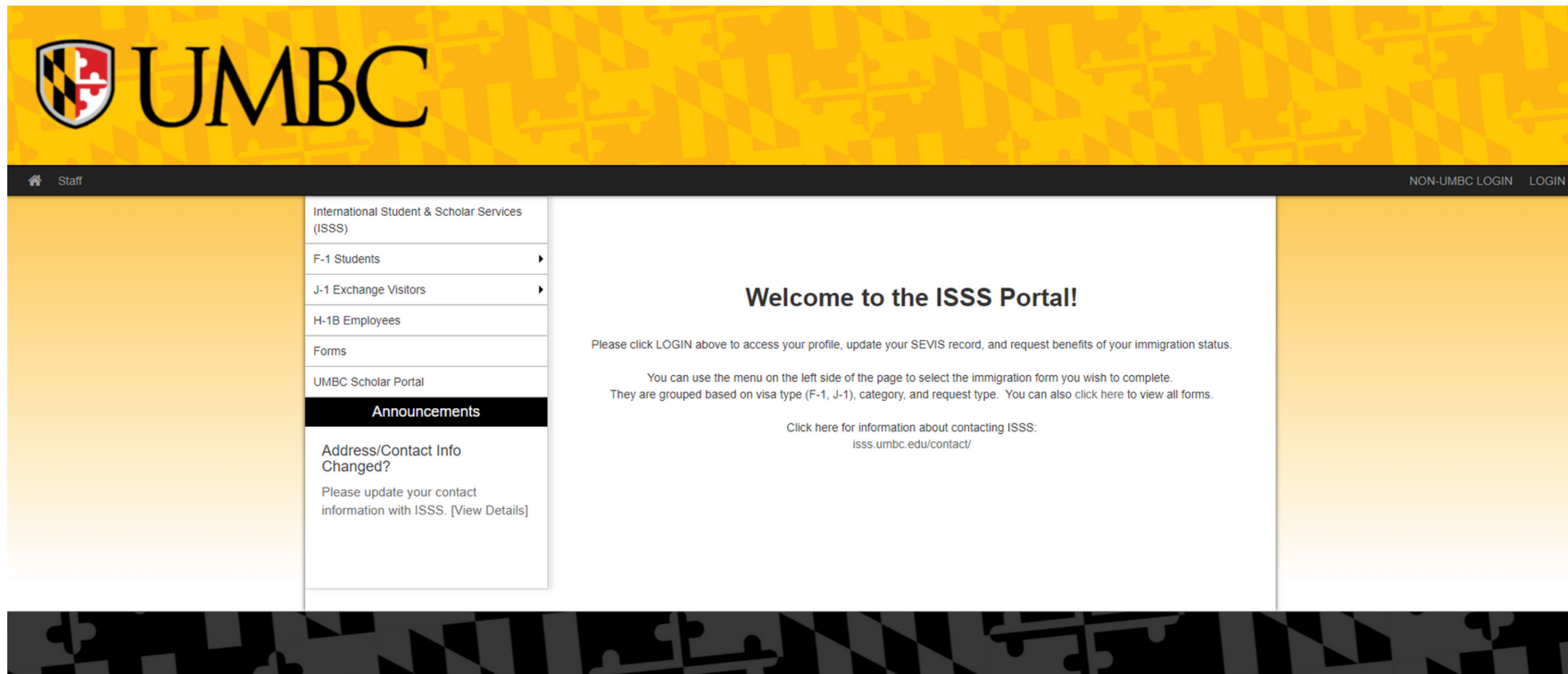
✧ **Tag us** in your ✧
adventures on ✧
campus and the U.S.



ISSS Portal

ISSS has gone paperless!

Complete all electronic applications via the ISSS Portal



Session 1: International Student Orientation



About the ISSS 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!





Immigration

Review



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

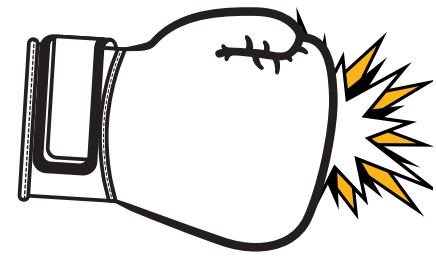
The visa is only for entering the US, and in F-1 status, does not have a role beyond that purpose.



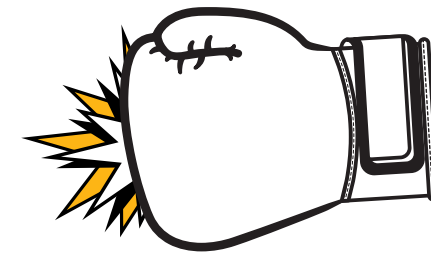
Status

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





Visa vs. Status



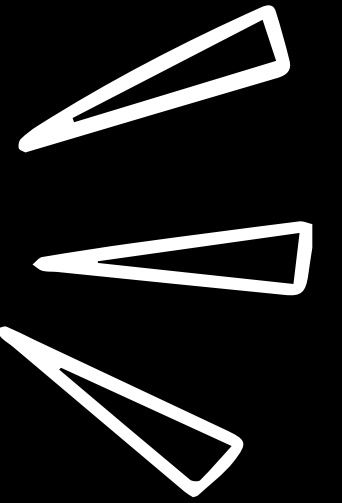
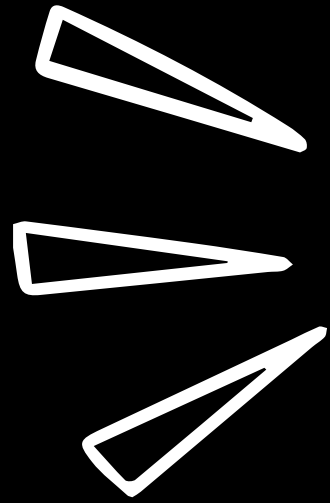
- Example Time – Let's Go To The Movies!
- Movie ticket = visa
- Your movie = status (can only stay for the duration of the reason you entered)



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 ISSS has verified your full-time enrollment and that you are on campus
 - Must complete New Student Arrival Documentation Check-in
 - Needed for MVA, SSN
 - Usually available 2-4 weeks after semester begins, or on request



What documents should I carry?

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



Quiz Time!

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

- I-20 *or* I-94?

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

- I-20 *or* passport *or* visa?

What document cannot be renewed in the US?

- visa *or* I-20 *or* passport?





Maintaining Status: Following F-1 Rules



Maintaining Status - 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 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)



Online Courses

- 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):
 - First Semester Academic Difficulty (English language, reading requirements, adjustment challenges)
 - “Improper Course Placement”
- **MUST be approved by ISSS before dropping below full-time**



Work Options Summary

- On-Campus Employment
- Practical Training (off-campus)
 - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
 - Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Need-based employment (off-campus)
 - Severe, Unexpected, Documented Economic Hardship (USCIS processing fee of \$410)



On-Campus Employment

- Must be on UMBC's campus **ONLY** – BW Tech Park, for example, is NOT on campus
- Must be paid by UMBC
- May work **no more than 20 hours per week** during semesters
- May hold more than one job on campus so long as total hours are no more than 20
- May work full-time (More than 20 hours per week) outside of semesters



On-Campus Employment

Find an on-campus job:

- The Career Center website – UMBCWorks
- Career Center guidance on documents (CV, cover letter); best practices
- Apply in person
- Network!



Off-Campus Employment: CPT

CPT: Curricular Practical Training

- Paid internships while a current student
- Eligible after 2 academic semesters in US
- Must be authorized by ISSS, noted on I-20
- Must be related to your degree program, and noted on transcript



Off-Campus Employment: OPT

OPT: Optional Practical Training

- Usually after graduation
- 1 Year of work authorization
- Can work for any employer/change employer, work has to be related to academic field studied at UMBC
- Requires application to USCIS, plan for 3-4 months processing time



Off-Campus Employment: STEM OPT Extension

- STEM Extension – possibility of 24 months additional OPT
- STEM-eligible degree completed
- Requires E-Verified employer, I-983 Training Plan
- Can change employers



Off-Campus Employment: Economic Hardship

- For students in unexpected financial hardship
- Have to prove source of unexpected difficulties
- Not often approved, have to make a very strong case
- Application to USCIS costs \$410
- Don't rely on this option!



📢 Employment Quiz Time! 📢

1. You've graduated with a PhD in Biology, and got a job offer in a bio lab.
2. You are offered a position to shelve books in the UMBC library.
3. You are an Engineering major and want to work as an Uber Driver.
4. You are a 2nd semester Computer Science major and get an offer for a summer internship in California to work for Google!



...but where can I find a job?!

- Again, the Career Center is a great place to start
 - Career Center events
 - Career Center Services
 - UMBCWorks
- ALL available at careers.umbc.edu



...but where can I find a job?!

- The Career Center provides additional resources for preparing for interviews/the workplace



UMBC SUITS YOU

PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING CLOSET



Select one dry-cleaned or new professional outfit for FREE!

Susquehanna
Community Room

9/16, 10AM-6PM

9/17, 9AM-12PM

For more information visit careers.umbc.edu/suits

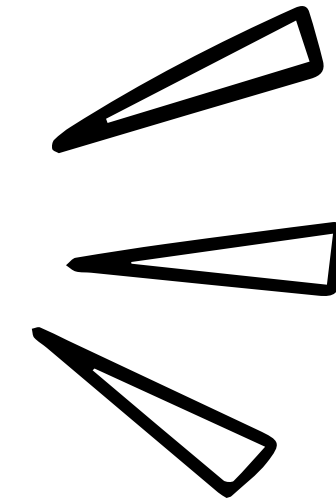
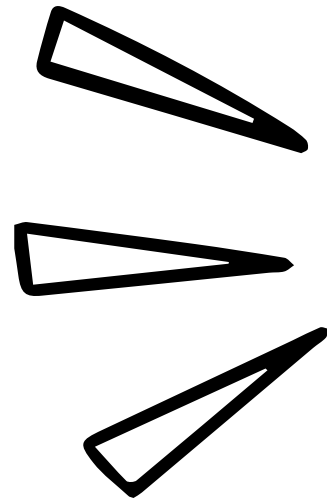


Work Options Summary

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



Other ISSS Services



Social Security Number (SSN)

Purpose

- Required to get paid
- Tracks income for tax purposes

Application Process

- Receive job offer
- Complete New Student Arrival Documentation Check-In in ISSS Portal
- Submit SSN Letter Request via ISSS Portal
- Allow 3 business days for processing
- See the ISSS website for instructions: iss.s.umbc.edu/ssn/



Annual 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)

ALL students are required to file income tax forms whether you earn any income or not



Driver's License/State ID

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



In Summary:

- Maintain your status
- Register full-time
- Keep I-20 current
- Follow employment guidelines closely
- Don't break U.S. laws
- Keep in touch with the ISSS Office



Remember...

**Your immigration status is
your responsibility!**

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



Questions? Need assistance?



Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:



CPT: Off-Campus
Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers
(SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Request a Letter



OPT: Post-Graduation
Work Authorization



STEM OPT Extension



Extend Your F-1 Program
(I-20)



Change of Immigration
Status



New Students!
Fall 2021 International Student Arrival Guide



Something else?
See below to contact us!

Monday - Thursday: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

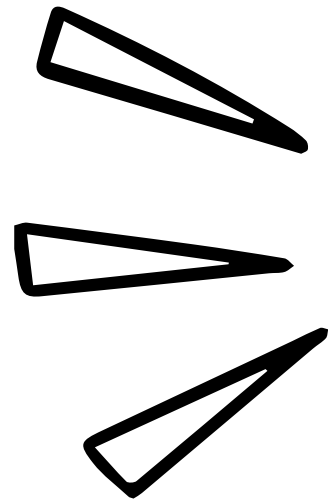
Appointment required:

iss.umbc.edu/contact/

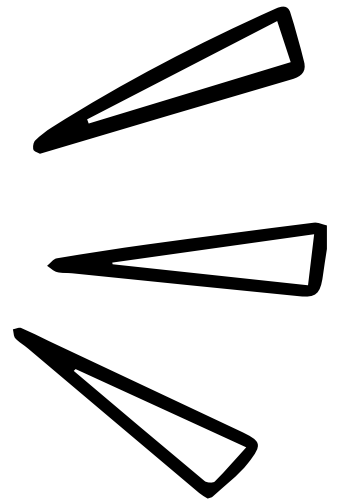
University Center, 207



Session 1: International Student Orientation



Let's Head Back To The Main Session



**Click link in chat to return to
main orientation session**

