UMBC International Student and Scholar Services Fall 2022 Continuing Student September 2nd, 2022 Town Hall





CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Meet the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Team



Adam Julian - Director



Dave Anguish - Assistant Director



Adwoa Hanson-Hall - ISSS Advisor



Mercedes Arias - ISSS Advisor



Sarah Cockcroft - ISSS Advisor



Natalie Lobb - International Student Support Manager



Diane Zeenny Ghorayeb -International Scholar Coordinator



About ISSS

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a branch of UMBC's Center for Global Engagement, is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community and helping them achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. ISSS offers a variety of programs and services to aide students in these endeavors:

- Immigration Advising ISSS helps international students and scholars navigate the U.S. visa process and maintain valid immigration status by providing the guidance, knowledge, and necessary resources.
- **Community Building** ISSS offers programming designed to help students make important connections within the UMBC community. These opportunities for intercultural exchange and mutual understanding enhance the UMBC international student experience.
- Work and Internships ISSS works with current students and alumni to help them access the many employment and internship opportunities available to them by facilitating the use of benefits such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and other employment authorizations.



Agenda

Friday, September 2nd

- COVID-19 Protocols
- Using ISSS Resources
- Fall 2022 COVID-19 Reminders
- F-1 Regulations
- Employment options
- Student Business Services Office
- Scams
- Health Insurance



Reminder: Please type questions in the Q&A not in the chat

Our team is monitoring the Q&A during this session. The chat is for links we share, but it is <u>not</u> monitored for questions.

Your patience is appreciated as we answer your questions!



ISSS Resources





Need Assistance?



Visit our Contact us page! isss.umbc.edu/contact/

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



OPT: Post-Graduation Work Authorization

New Students Download the International Student Arrival Guide

University Center, 207a (Appointment Required)



Social Security Numbers (SSN)



Travel Outside the US



STEM OPT Extension





Extend Your F-1 Program (1-20)



Applying for a Maryland Driver's License or State ID



Change of Immigration Status



COVID-19: Spring 2022 Options for New and Continuing F-1 Students



Something else? See how to contact ISSS





What should I do if I have a question?



Check the website!

Ask us on **Live Chat** Submit a

Help Ticket

Advising Appointment







Work Authorization



Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers (SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Driver's License or State ID





(1-20)

Change of Immigration Status

Always do this first!

Got the answer you need? Great! No need to go on to step 2

On our contact us page, we put icons that will take you to the answers for the most common questions



Can't find the answer on the website? then... Ask us on Live Chat

- You can ask quick questions on Live Chat
 - You'll chat directly with an ISSS advisor
 - Please keep it brief :)
 - Other students may be in the queue
 - Has your question been resolved? No need to go on to step 3



Still need more help?



Once you submit a ticket, all ISSS staff can see it (you don't need to CC us or submit follow up tickets!)

Response time: 3-5 business days



Still require further assistance?



Most questions are resolved before this step! An advisor can let you know if your situation requires an advising appointment



Where can I find this information?

How to work with ISSS and answers to your most common questions can be found on the







Have a question about campus life or navigating UMBC? Ask a Global Ambassador on Unibuddy!



There are 10 student ambassadors from different home countries, areas of study and with a wide variety of personal interests

Click here to meet and chat with the Ambassadors!



How Global Ambassadors can help

Global Ambassadors <u>can</u>:

- Discover more about UMBC campus life
- Connect you with UMBC resources
- Learn about US & UMBC classroom culture and student life in the US!

Global Ambassadors cannot:

- Provide immigration support
- Help you get a job or provide
 - CPT/OPT advice
- Offer academic advising or pick
 - your classes for you



...BUT they can connect you with teams who will help you with these things!



Fall 2022 **On Campus** Reminders







COVID -19 Protocols

- COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for all students, faculty, and staff on campus
- KN95 or equivalent masks must be worn in all spaces where masking is required • Masking is required for in person ISSS advising appointments
- UMBC is following CDC's guidelines for international travel and guarantine Proof of vaccination with an approved vaccine BEFORE traveling to the U.S. is required.
 - Check with your airline or <u>CDC Travel Assessment</u> for compliance
 - Not required to quarantine but self-isolation for a few days are <u>recommended</u>, especially after international travel
- Please refer to the FAQ for International Students on <u>www.covid-19.umbc.edu</u> site

Direct all COVID-19 Questions to covid19@umbc.edu



F-1 Regulations During COVID-19



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 $\frac{1}{2}$ we check! $\frac{1}{2}$
- May take a class at another campus also (must speak with academic advisor first)

reaks - not required ing semesters – ¥ we check! peak with academic advisor



Online Courses

- Generally F-1 students can take only one online class per semester
- Exceptions to this rule due to COVID-19 for continuing F-1 students
 - Must have spent 1 semester or more in the US
 - Eligible to take **ALL** online courses
 - Hybrid classes are considered "in-person," not "online"



Definition of "Full-Time Enrollment" at UMBC

- Undergraduate students:
 - 12 credit hours minimum Fall and Spring semester
- Graduate Students:
 - o 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)
 - Deadline December 13th
 - Academic (can only be approved once):
 - First Semester Academic Difficulty (English language, reading) requirements, adjustment challenges)
 - "Improper Course Placement"
 - Deadline November 9th
- MUST be approved by ISSS before dropping below full-time



Travel

- Continuing F-1 students can travel in and out of the US at any time
- No special permission/late arrival letter required if returning after the start of the semester
- If it is your final semester, you must be physically inside the US to apply for OPT
- Review travel requirements: <u>Travel on F-1 Visa</u>
 - Valid passport
 - Valid visa
 - I-20 with valid travel signature



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.





S Brief Overview of Work Options

Employment is limited under F-1 status

The employment rules are very strict and must be followed carefully

Types of Employment

- 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 Handshake
- Career Center guidance on documents (CV, cover letter); best practices
- 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: CPT

Find an internship:

- Career Center!!
 - Review their communications
 - Handshake
 - Events
 - Guidance
 - PRAC Deadline for Fall 2022: October 5th
- Academic Department
- Network with other students



PLAN AHEAD! ISSS requires <u>3-5 business days</u> to process a <u>complete</u> CPT application. Your application is not complete until all items are submitted: Offer Letter PRAC approval • GPD approval (Graduate Students) Advisor approval

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

Xtreme OPT Workshop September 21st



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!



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

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



Handshake



Working with the Career Center

- PRAC deadline for CPT is October 5th
- Register for PRAC on Handshake
 - Directions: <u>careers.umbc.edu/students/find/internship/earn-academic-</u> <u>credit/</u>
- Plan Ahead PRAC takes a minimum of 5 business days to process
 - do not send emails asking for faster processing or following up on your submission
 - Appointments regarding CPT and PRAC are for questions and not for expediting the approval of your registration.






Working with the Career Center

Activate and upload your resume to Handshake, UMBC's new job and internship platform: Top employers are posting incredible internships, part-time, and full-time jobs daily. Summer 2023 internship positions are also being added. Don't delay applying!

Have your internship resume reviewed in advance by the Career Center:

This ensures you are marketing yourself well for positions. You can stop by the Career Center during drop-ins Monday through Friday 2-4pm for a quick resume review or make an appointment on Handshake.

Participate in UMBC's Fall Career and Internship Fair on Sept. 21 in the RAC

140 employers will be in attendance, many of whom are recruiting both interns and those graduating in December and May for full-time positions.

Looking for on campus employment?

be sure to create an on-campus jobs resume for non-technical roles. Do not use a technical resume to apply for nontechnical positions. There are very limited opportunities to work on campus at this time. Networking with your classmates and instructors is a great way to find out about roles and continuing to check Handshake.







Work Options Summary

Work Type	Location	Eligibility	Related To Major	Authorization Required	Weekly Limits
On Campus Employment	On UMBC's campus	After arriving on campus	No	No	Semester: 20hrs Session Break: 40hrs
СРТ	Off campus	After 2 Academic Semesters	Yes	ISSS	Semester: 20hrs Session Break: 40hrs
ΟΡΤ	Off campus	After graduation	Yes	USCIS	Minimum 20hrs/week
STEM OPT Extension	Off Campus	After OPT	Yes	USCIS	Minimum 20hrs/week
Economic Hardship	Off Campus	During studies	No	USCIS	Semester: 20hrs Session Break: 40hrs





What's a scam?

- Scams are usually in the form of phone calls or emails from fraudulent individuals trying to obtain personal information or money from you.
- These individuals are trying to take advantage of you and use your information for harmful purposes.
- It happens to everyone! Be prepared and don't freak out. These are criminals trying to steal your money or identity.



How do I know if a phone call is a scam?

- The callers claim to be from a government organization, such as USCIS, the IRS, or a court – these organizations will never call you!
- The caller uses high-pressure tactics to try to get what they want, threatening you with things like deportation, arrest, and more.
- The caller will not let you off the phone to verify if it is a legitimate call.
- If you were in enough trouble that these were things that might happen to you, it wouldn't be a surprise to you, and you would NOT get a call about it.
- The caller does not sound professional.
- The caller asks or demands money or personal information this is certainly a scam!!



How do I know if an email is a scam?

- Check the email address of the sender. For example, a recent scam claimed to be the "UMBC WebMail Program" but had a non-UMBC email address.
- Is the language professional? Many scammers are not native English speakers, do not write in professional English, or make many mistakes.
- The email asks for money or personal information. US government organizations will not ask for personal information or money via email.
- The email is threatening.
- The email doesn't make sense. For example, the "UMBC WebMail Program" email would clearly be a scam because UMBC does not use WebMail. You can google search UMBC Webmail Program and won't be able to find anything – this tells you it is likely a scam.



Common Scam #1: USCIS, SSA, IRS Phone Scams

- Student receives a call from someone from USCIS with the USCIS National Customer Service Center number.
- The "representative" provides personal identifiable information about academic status and immigration/visa records including passport number. • The "representative" insists that the student is out of status and he/she must wire money to "USCIS" to fix the problem. Otherwise, the student must leave
- the country immediately.
- The "representative" provided a batch ID number and told the student to go to the airport after the wire transfer.



Common Scam #1: USCIS, SSA, IRS Phone Scams

- Remember, the USCIS, IRS, SSA will **never** call your personal phone.
- Your international student advisor can always confirm your status by accessing your SEVIS record.
- USCIS would never request money over the phone to "fix" your status.
- Never handle money before I-9 process and onboarding

<mark>your personal phone.</mark> confirm your status by

one to "fix" your status. nboarding



Common Scam #2: Email Scams

- These most commonly appear to be from UMBC and ask you to click a link to verify your email account, at the risk of it being disabled.
- If the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) needed something like this to be done, they would alert the campus community in advance.
- Offers to work as a "personal assistant" as an F-1 student.
- Offers to make extra cash through money transfers
- Anything that seems too good to be true almost certainly is!



Common Scam #3: Text Scams

• These most commonly appear to be from a bank or an e-commerce site like Amazon or Paypal and ask you to click a link to verify your account, charges to your account or your credit card • DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS!

Log in to the relevant account to check

Session 1: International Student Orientation



How do I protect myself from scams?

- Block calls, or don't answer calls from numbers you don't know (iOS option) Some network providers/phone OSs offer services to help screen calls
- Important legitimate callers will leave a voicemail message
- Know the signs of a scam don't be a victim! Hang up, or better yet, waste THEIR time but don't give them anything!
- If you are truly concerned it might be legitimate, take a call-back number and consult with ISSS.



How do I protect myself from scams? **REMEMBER:**

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER CALL YOU, NEVER DEMAND MONEY OR **PERSONAL INFO, AND NEVER THREATEN YOU. Hang up, it's a scam!**

- If you hang up once, don't pick up the number again.
- The scammer will eventually give up and move on.





>> Health // Insurance >>



Retriever Integarted Health (RIH) - Health Services

- RIH is UMBC's on campus student health services center. You'll be able to visit the doctor here as a student at UMBC.
- Health Services is part of Retriever Integrated Health (RIH) which also includes the Counseling Center and Office of Health Promotion.

are on campus



Overview of Services

- Diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and injuries
- Treatment & monitoring of chronic illnesses
- Immunizations including MMR, Tetanus, Meningitis, Hepatitis B, Gardasil, seasonal flu, and others
- Preventative and routine gynecological and contraceptive care
- Tuberculosis screenings
- Routine physical examinations
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings

- Acupuncture
- Massage Therapy
- Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

 Laboratory testing including free, confidential HIV testing • Pharmacy services for prescriptions written by UHS providers, including birth control and emergency contraception



Overview of Mental Health Services

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
 - Undergraduate Student Process Group
 - Graduate Student Support Group
 - Support Group for Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender Questioning Students
 - Survivor First Group
 - Flexible and Balanced (FAB) Living
 - You've Got This



National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988



Overview of Mental Health Services

Three FREE online tools for mental health support



Get started at health.umbc.edu/ReachOutRetrievers

WUMBC



Let's talk about how we're feeling.

Find peer-to-peer connections and support using **Togetherall**.

Visit health.umbc.edu/ReachOutRetrievers

WUMBC



Seeing distress in your classroom? Let your students know you care. Kognito helps you start the conversation.

Visit health.umbc.edu/ReachOutRetrievers





Is health insurance required? YES

 International students are required by law to hold a US health insurance policy. There is no exception to this rule





All students are automatically enrolled in UMBC's comprehensive health care plan

- Plan name: Aetna Student Health
- Coverage begins at the start of the semester
- The cost of insurance will be billed to you (this is your premium)
- For services rendered at UHS, deductible is waived & covered medical expenses are paid at 100% (after copay)



Review your Aetna Student Health Plan

- Basic policy benefits from University Health Services: Click <u>here</u>
- <u>Aetna Student Health full benefits summary: Click here</u>



However, if you choose a different plan:

- The plan must meet certain minimum requirements. All policies will be audited by Student Health to ensure that they meet the requirements.
- You'll need to waive your UMBC insurance.
- The deadline to waive your insurance if you choose to do so, is Sept 15. If you do not waive you will not be refunded.
- These instructions only apply if you choose to purchase and use another insurance plan



Reminder:

- You do not need to waive anything if you keep the university health insurance plan.
- Students not currently in the US do not need health insurance
- ISSS will email if we have questions about your current location - it is your responsibility to let us know whether you

are in or out of the US



If you (or someone you know) is experiencing a <u>life-threatening</u> medical emergency: <u>Call 911</u>

If you (or someone you know) is experiencing a <u>mental health crisis</u> <u>Call 988</u>

Supreming Events



Important Deadlines

September 7th - Last day to Drop/Withdraw and receive 100% tuition refund

• Review Refund Schedule

September 14th - Schedule Adjustment Deadline September 15th - Graduation Application Deadline

- Graduate Student Graduation Application
- <u>Undergraduate Student Graduation Application</u>

October 5th - Deadline to apply for PRAC for CPT November 9th - Deadline to Withdraw from Individual Course December 13th - Deadline for complete term withdrawal Review the Fall 2022 Academic Calendar for all dates/deadlines



Upcoming Events

UMBC Welcome Week

- When: August 27th September 10th
- Time: Varies by Event
- Event Details: welcomeweek.umbc.edu/events/

International Student Welcome Reception

- When: September 6th
- Time: 2 5 pm EST
- Event Details: isss.umbc.edu/orientation

Finding and Getting a Graduate Assistantship at UMBC

- When: Wednesday September 7th
- Time: 12:00 -1:30pm
- Event Details:

6

my.umbc.edu/groups/promise/events/10796

Community Cookout

- When: Saturday, September 10th
- Time: 3 6pm EST

Fall 2022 Career & Internship Fair

- When: Wednesday September 21st
- Time: 11:30am -3:30pm
- Register here: <u>Career & Internship Fair</u>

XTREME OPT WORKSHOP

- Time: 12:00 -1:00pm
- Register here:

• Event Details: <u>welcomeweek.umbc.edu/events/</u>

• When: Wednesday September 21st



XTREME OPT WORKSHOP!

• • •

REGISTER ONLINE @ MY.UMBC.EDU/GROUPS/IES

WEDNESDAY SEP 21 12-1PM

Come learn about the OPT application process!







A series of virtual webinars from the Immigration Law Firm Fragomen:

- Registration is required
- View all events here: <u>Fragomen Events</u>

<u>Wednesday, September 7 at 2:00pm EDT- Open Q&A with Aaron</u> <u>Blumberg</u>

Fragomen Partner Aaron Blumberg will answer your immigration-related questions on CPT, OPT, H-1B, permanent residency, and other employment categories during this open Q&A session on



<u>Tuesday, September 20 at 1:00pm EDT - Immigration Options for Business</u> <u>Students, Investors & Entrepreneurs</u>

Join Senior Associate Carole Rowlinson and Associate Jake Minster for the upcoming session "Immigration Options for Business Students, Investors & Entrepreneurs," on Tuesday, September 20 at 1:00pm EDT. We encourage you to submit your questions in advance via the registration form.

Tuesday, December 6 at 2:00pm EDT- Open Q&A with Aaron Blumberg

Fragomen Partner Aaron Blumberg will answer your immigration-related questions on CPT, OPT, H-1B, Permanent residency, and other employment categories during this open Q&A session on Tuesday, December 6 at 2:00pm ET.

ISSS Resources >



ISSS Portal

ISSS has gone paperless!

Complete all electronic applications via the ISSS Portal

UMBC

者 Staff

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

F-1 Students

J-1 Exchange Visitors

H-1B Employees

Forms

UMBC Scholar Portal

Announcements

Address/Contact Info Changed?

Please update your contact information with ISSS. [View Details]

Welcome to the ISSS Portal!

Please click LOGIN above to access your profile, update your SEVIS record, and request benefits of your immigration status.

You can use the menu on the left side of the page to select the immigration form you wish to complete. They are grouped based on visa type (F-1, J-1), category, and request type. You can also click here to view all forms.

> Click here for information about contacting ISSS: isss.umbc.edu/contact/







Questions? Need assistance? **Contact Us**





CPT: Off-Campus Work Authorization



OPT: Post-Graduation Work Authorization



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



Social Security Numbers (SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Request a Letter





(1-20)



Change of Immigration Status



Something else? See below to contact us!

The answer to most inquiries are available here: isss.umbc.edu/contact/



What should I do if I have a question?



Check the website!

Ask us on **Live Chat** Submit a

Help Ticket

Advising Appointment



Contacting the ISSS Team

The answer to most inquiries are available here: isss.umbc.edu/contact/

Fall 2022 Advising and Live Chat Schedule

NOTE: On Monday, August 22, Live Chat will only be available from 3:00 – 4:00 PM. There will be no Live Chat on Wednesday, August 24





Contacting the ISSS Team

The answer to most inquiries are available here: isss.umbc.edu/contact/

@ Submitting a Help Ticket

If you have a question or issue that you cannot resolve using any of the methods above, please submit a Help Ticket. We aim to respond to inquiries within 3-5 business days. ISSS advisors respond to tickets during business hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Please do not submit multiple tickets or contact individual CGE staff members. This will only delay our ability to respond promptly to your inquiry.

- Recently admitted F-1/J-1 students
- Current F-1/J-1 students
- H-1B Employees
- UMBC faculty and staff

Submit a Help Ticket (UMBC user)

- Graduates of UMBC who are working on OPT or STEM OPT
- Users without myUMBC accounts or Single Sign-On (SSO) credentials

Submit a Help Ticket (non-UMBC user)





Contacting the ISSS Team

The answer to most inquiries are available here: isss.umbc.edu/contact/

- Follow guidelines for finding answers. If you need to submit a help ticket, remember:
 - Response time 3-5 business days
 - Do not send multiple or reminder help tickets
 - Do not include ISSS team personal emails in CC field
 - Include full name and campus ID
 - Include relevant information so we can best advise you
 - Do not follow up via live chat or advising appointment before receiving a response



Follow us on social media!

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







Instagram: @umbc_isss



Twitter: @umbc_isss

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





Welcome Back!

