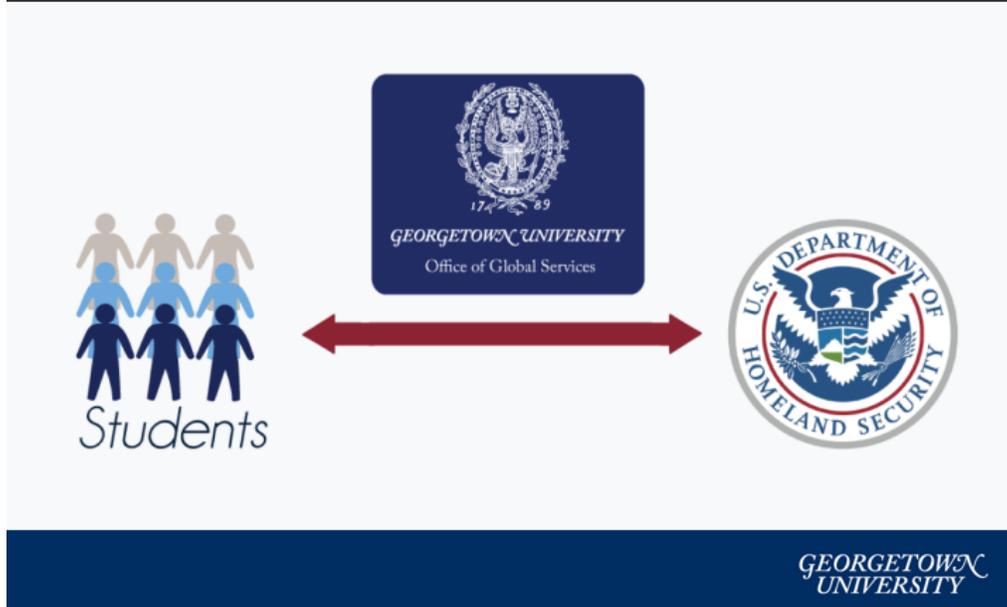


Georgetown is home to more than 2,500 international students across three campuses who enrich our classrooms and our community. The International Student & Scholar Services (IS) division of the Office of Global Services (OGS) works to equip these individuals with the knowledge they need to maintain their legal status and maximize their immigration benefits in the United States. Our mission is: (1) To support each student in navigating unfamiliar regulatory, social and academic systems; (2) To support each of you as you shepherd these students to degree completion; and (3) To make every effort to preserve the University's institutional immigration compliance.



When we say ‘international’, we refer only to students whose immigration status is sponsored by Georgetown. These students study in either F-1 or J-1 status. 99% of our students are F-1s; the small group of students who study in J-1 status are part of the Department of State’s Exchange Visitor Program. We’ll talk more about them later.

Our Role



In order to support university-sponsored F-1 and J-1 students, we serve as the liaison between Georgetown, the students themselves, and the U.S. government. Should you ever be contacted by any U.S. government agency about one of these students, either by phone or in person, please collect as much information as possible about the situation/request and contact both Chief Jay Gruber in GUPD and the Office of University Counsel. In most cases we are not required to provide immediate information to law enforcement. And while we acknowledge it is very intimidating to have FBI or ICE officers at your doorstep, you can feel assured in asking them to wait while you contact the appropriate university authorities.



Extra Reporting for J-1 Exchange Visitors:

Students, Scholars & Interns



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The U.S. Department of State views J-1 as more than a status; rather, the Exchange Visitor Program is a diplomatic tool to foster global understanding. J-1 Exchange Visitors are typically semester- and year-long exchange students, although we also have a few degree-seekers.

All exchange agreements between Georgetown and foreign institutions must remain valid and reflect the most updated terms of the agreement. OGS cannot issue a J-1 immigration document for a student if the exchange agreement expires at any time during the period of the student's exchange.

In addition to all of the regular student monitoring we do for DHS, we, **and you**, must also report to the Department of State all **incidents** that affect the health and safety of an Exchange Visitor. When in doubt about whether an incident should be reported, please err on the side of over-reporting. Never hesitate to ask us if an affected person is a member of our Exchange Visitor Program.

Another area of extra reporting is for off-campus activity: When we grant J-1 authorization for experiential training activities, we require a bit more participation from the academic department, both in vetting the training site and evaluating the experience at its conclusion.

Approved Programs

- **Degree types**
- **Time to degree**
- **Off-campus opportunities**
- **DHS adjudication process**

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Admitted students may study in F-1 or J-1 status only for programs approved by the U.S. government. Not all program structures are eligible for F-1 and J-1 status. As you think about designing new programs of study or updating existing programs, please come talk with us early in the process to ensure F-1 and J-1 students can participate. Programs that award new degree types, have an untraditional length of time to degree, or include innovative experiential learning opportunities require an adjudication process that can take up to 14 months. And once approved, the government audits our existing F and J programs every two years. It is for this reason that we require programs to submit any material changes on our Program Verification Form: Changes in credit requirements, new experiential learning, online courses, etc.. The Office of the Provost has a new structure for vetting new program development through all University entities with compliance requirements (e.g. OGS, Veteran's Affairs, Financial Aid, Registrar, etc.). Please contact Tammi Dammas for more information about this process.

Our Partnership



By now, it should be clear we cannot meet these obligations alone: We rely on you to keep us informed of all that happens on the front lines. We hope this session will help you recognize when an academic situation has immigration implications. We ask to reach out to us when you or your students have questions. Our aim is for all F-1 and J-1 students to earn their Georgetown degree. We strive to help these students avoid any unpleasant surprises associated with their immigration status.

Recruitment

Courseload/Time to Degree

U.S. Employment/Internships

Non-Immigrant Status



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When recruiting students who will study in F-1 and J-1 status, please remember they will face restrictions that other students do not. Many students arrive in the United States unaware that they must complete the degree program within a fixed amount of time. Accessing authorization for paid and unpaid off-campus opportunities is a benefit of F-1 and J-1 status that requires strategic planning. While we welcome all our new students into the Georgetown community with equal energy and enthusiasm for the journey that awaits them, we must remember that F-1 and J-1 students will be asked to prove to the U.S. government that their plans in this country are temporary.

Admissions Timeline

Academic Admission

Stage 1:
3 days *minimum*
2 weeks *maximum*

Intent to Matriculate (IM) Form
(students self-identify as F-1/J-1)

Banner Learner Record
(in SGASTDN)

OGS Document Request

*Executive and Short-Term Programs follow a unique process.

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OGS sends the student an invitation link to the International Student Portal only after matriculation is fully confirmed.

Document Issuance

Proof of Funding

Stage 2:
Up to four weeks

Pre-Orientation Canvas Modules

Shipment or pickup

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These students must prove funding capacity for at least the first academic year of their program. We also ask them to familiarize themselves with some immigration and cultural basics before they receive an immigration document. In late Spring and throughout the Summer, we have a long queue of cases as we evaluate each student's eligibility for F-1 or J-1 status. We manage this process from our newinternational@georgetown.edu inbox, and we cannot accommodate phone inquiries from admitted students during this cycle. OGS will issue to eligible students a Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. Students must purchase shipment of their immigration document, which will serve as the basis of their F-1 or J-1 visa interview.

Visa & Arrival

Stage 3: Up to four weeks

**Embassy/consulate
interview appointment**



**Stamp in
passport**

Entry to United States

Up to 30 days before, but no later than program start date

Mandatory on-site orientation & reporting requirements

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Stage 3. Visa Interview with U.S. Embassy/Consulate

Students whose visa application is selected for 'Administrative Processing' may suffer severe delays in excess of one month.

1. Student schedules a visa appointment with U.S. Embassy/Consulate
2. Student attends visa interview.
3. Consulate issues visa stamp.
4. Student may enter the United States up to 30 days prior to Program Start Date.
5. Student must arrive by the Program Start Date (typically OGS orientation date) to comply with Federal Regulations.

Upcoming Request Deadlines

MiM: June 7 (today)

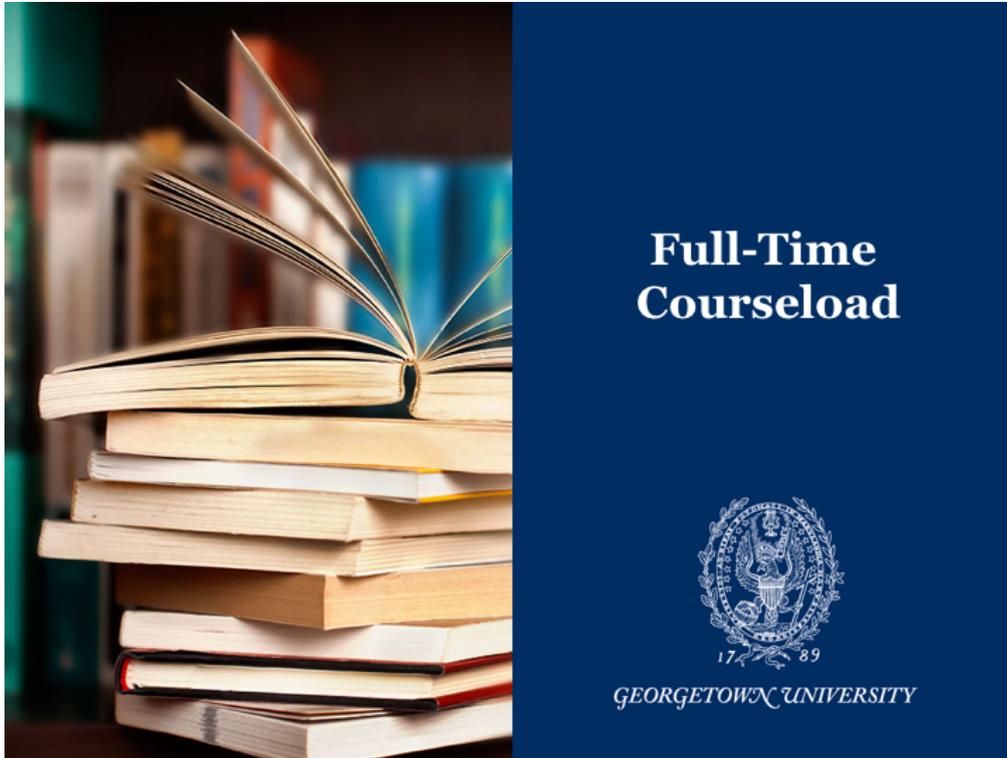
MBA: June 27

Economics: July 12

GSAS and Undergrads: July 19

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We are often asked by Departments when they should stop admitting students. While we can't give such a directive, we can tell you when we will issue immigration documents to students who submit all F-1 or J-1 requirements to us at least one month prior to the mandatory program start date. As of this date, the Georgetown immigration portal locks. These deadlines apply to students transferring within the United States as well as those coming from abroad. Our deadline has two purposes: (1) To ensure we provide the best service to those students already transitioning to the United States and Georgetown; and (2) To avoid creating unrealistic expectations of visa issuance that simply aren't feasible in this climate of scrutiny and enforcement.



Because study is the sole purpose of these nonimmigrant statuses, full-time enrollment is closely monitored in order to ensure successful completion within the allotted period of time.

Full-Time Reminders

Undergraduate: 12 credits

Graduate: Normative credit requirement

Add/Drop Deadline → Keep us in the loop!

Audited classes do not count

Online classes

- **F-1:** One per semester
- **J-1:** Do not count

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Students who are not full time by the end of the add/drop period violate their immigration status. Please let us know if students have a hold on their Registration, and develop a contingency plan when a student is on a course waitlist. Audited courses do not count toward the full-time requirement but pass/fail classes do. And as online education, distance learning, and hybrid classes grow at Georgetown, be mindful that F-1 students are limited to counting only one of these courses per semester toward their minimum. No online classes can count toward a J-1 student's full-time enrollment. We often evaluate hybrid courses on a case-by-case basis: For example, if we can justify a four-credit hybrid course as being equivalent three in-person credits and one online credit, it can count towards full-time enrollment.

Reduced Courseload (RCL) Authorization

Physical/Mental Health Condition

- Bring medical documentation to ARC
- Withdrawal *after* OGS authorization

First Semester English Language Difficulty

- Written justification from instructor & program

Improper Course Placement

- Contact IS Advisor

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There are very few reasons that a student can be authorized to study below the full-time courseload requirement. Each situation requires an in-depth conversation with an IS Advisor and substantial documentation to support the authorization.

Students who suffer from a physical or mental health condition that impedes academic performance are eligible for RCL accommodations at any point. The accommodation must be renewed each semester, up to a maximum of 12 months. Students submit medical documentation to the Academic Resource Center, which issues a recommendation letter detailing the number of credits by which to reduce. Unless a student is in the hospital, OGS will not authorize a reduced courseload with zero credit enrollment. Please note that in all these cases, the course withdrawal may not take effect until the IS Advisor has confirmed authorization.

Despite Georgetown's rigorous admissions standards, the pace and volume of discussion and reading may sometimes exceed a student's English language proficiency. In these cases, a first-semester RCL Authorization to reduce the load by one course can help ease the transition to the United States. Students who have transferred their F-1 status from a previous institution are unlikely to qualify for this RCL.

Even more seldom-used is the Improper Course Placement justification because it speaks to a lack of effective advising. If a student is truly a poor fit for a course and does not realize this until after add/drop, we will consider a letter from the program/dean in which the advisor takes responsibility for the advising error.

Final Semester Considerations

- Email IS Advisor to confirm degree completion with **less** than full-time enrollment.
- **Online** or **internship** course/tutorial cannot be *only* course.
- Must have at least one course **required** for degree completion → Otherwise we must *shorten* the immigration document.

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This is the most common reason for an authorized reduced courseload. The U.S. government does not require students to take more courses than necessary to complete the desired degree. We ask deans and advisors to confirm by email when a student is in the final semester of study and taking less than a full-time courseload. We also ask you to be mindful that online courses are not permitted to satisfy degree requirements for F-1 students who are below the full-time normative in the final semester. And an elective internship course is not permitted as the only degree requirement for the final semester.



When to contact your IS Advisor



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Our whole team is at your service, but we divide into caseloads in hopes that you develop a productive relationship with a point of contact on whom you can rely and who knows your program requirements best.

Pre-Program

Deferrals

Late arrivals

Students who do not attend

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Please let us know when you learn of any students who defer their enrollment, face obstacles to arriving in time for our orientation, or who notify you that they will not attend. Students only feel obligated to share this information with Georgetown once, so we appreciate you sharing it across the institution and we promise to do the same!

Normal Academic Progress

Registration Holds

Class Failure

Overloading/Accelerating

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We need to know about any deviation from the standard trajectory through the program. Students who cannot enroll by the end of add/drop due to registration holds cannot remain in the United States in F-1 or J-1 status. Students who fail a course will typically need to overload in a future semester or take summer courses, as failure does not automatically enable extension of F-1 or J-1 status. Students who fail courses in their final semester make for challenging cases. Some have to finish their degrees from abroad. Sometimes extensions can be granted if the failure was anomalous and not part of troubling pattern. Students who take extra courses over Winter, Spring or Summer Break or accelerate their studies in any way, should speak with their IS Advisor about the impact on their immigration status. OGS is obligated to shorten the immigration document when a student completes all degree requirements. Undergraduates who accelerate and finish all degree requirements in the Fall must graduate early, as they cannot retain F-1 or J-1 status to take a Spring class they don't need to graduate.

Normal Academic Progress

Extensions are not normal.

Students must have compelling, documented academic or medical reasons beyond their control.

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Extensions of time to complete the degree are not common and must always be authorized before a student's immigration document expires. The situations require a great deal of communication between all of us.

8 CFR 214.2(f)(7)(iii) Program extension for students in lawful status.

An F-1 student who is unable to meet the program completion date on the Form I-20 may be granted an extension by the DSO if the DSO certifies that the student has continually maintained status and that the delays are caused by compelling academic or medical reasons, such as changes of major or research topics, unexpected research problems, or documented illnesses. Delays caused by academic probation or suspension are not acceptable reasons for program extensions. A DSO may not grant an extension if the student did not apply for an extension until after the program end date noted on the Form I-20. An F-1 student who is unable to complete the educational program within the time listed on Form I-20 and who is ineligible for program extension pursuant to this paragraph (f)(7) is considered out of status. If eligible, the student may apply for reinstatement under the provisions of paragraph (f)(16) of this section.

Program Changes

Study Abroad

Leave of Absence

Withdrawal/Suspension/Termination

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F-1 status can typically remain active while students study or research abroad as an approved component of their program, but they must report their foreign address to OGS. Leaves of absence have several implications, such as full-time enrollment upon return and off-campus work authorization eligibility waiting periods. Most students must wait a full academic year upon return to be eligible for any CPT or OPT authorizations for off campus internships. Students who return from a leave with only one semester left to degree completion, may lose the work authorization benefit completely. Academic actions that interrupt or prematurely end a student's matriculation require an immigration reaction, so we appreciate being looped in as early as possible in order to help students plan their next steps.

Unique Ph.D. Issues

Terminal Master's

Research Abroad

Program End Date

Ph.D. website coming Fall 2019!

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Ph.D. students face a few unique circumstances. J-1 Ph.D. students who conduct extended periods of research abroad cannot keep their status active.

The date of program completion is often a bit flexible for doctoral candidates, and we want to help these students plan for the future. Program Directors and Dissertation Supervisors should direct their students to contact OGS when their international Ph.D. students are scheduling the defense date. The defense date impacts the completion of studies date as defined by immigration, and this affects when they can or must apply for post-completion work authorization.

While no student plans for a terminal master's, this is sometimes a harsh reality. For J-1 students it is particularly problematic because they cannot reverse matriculate, or receive an immigration document for masters study after having originally enrolled as a doctoral candidate. Those students retain an unfinished doctoral record and cannot extend their status for any post-master's work authorization. F-1 students who get a master's in passing and then are notified that they cannot continue the doctoral program also become ineligible for post-completion work authorization at the master's level. A master's in passing should be discussed in advance with the IS Advisor.

We are now working on a website to address these issues and make this information more widely disseminated to our doctoral students. If you have

issues you would like us to include, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Cura Personalis

Cultural Adjustment

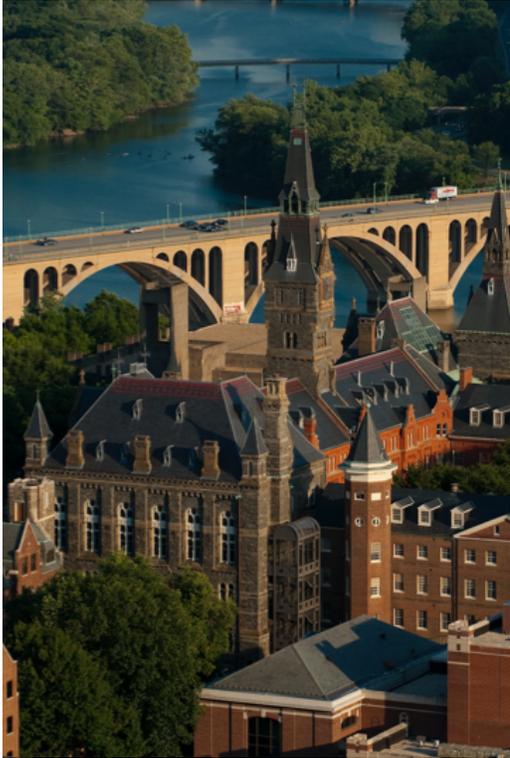
Mediation

Health Crises

Missing/Unresponsive

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As partners, we rely on you to communicate with us about individual students. Not only can we advise on any immigration implications but we can also work together to identify best support resources.



**Beyond the
classroom:**

**On-Campus
Employment**



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Compared to off-campus opportunities, on-campus employment is relatively accessible for both F-1 and J-1 students.

Ground Rules

20 hours/week limit during required terms
→ Unlimited during Winter, Spring & Summer* Breaks

SSN required
→ But I-9 can happen before SSN

Tax Department FNIS
→ To claim treaty benefits

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An F-1 or J-1 student's *total* employment and training must not exceed twenty hours per week during required academic terms. Special attention is required from on-campus supervisors whose employees are balancing multiple positions, whether elsewhere on campus or via off-campus authorization. Students can work on campus without limit on official University breaks of at least one week and outside of required academic terms. Unlike most off-campus activity, on-campus employment does not have to be related to a student's field of study; it can simply be a way to help make ends meet. In addition to completing the Form I-9 like any other hire, all international student employees should submit a special form to the Tax Department to ensure appropriate withholding.

On-Campus Employment

F-1: No authorization required

- Hiring department uses OGS template for **SSN Form**
- **Hiring Dept. Letterhead Required!**

J-1: Authorization required

- New authorization for each position & each academic year period of work
- Hiring department uses OGS template for **Authorization Letter on Georgetown Letterhead!**

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F-1 students don't require on-campus work authorization, but they may still need a signature from an IS Advisor in order to apply for a Social Security Number. Our signature is the final step on a form that is first printed on departmental letterhead and signed by the hiring department.

J-1 students *do* require on-campus authorization, but the process is similar to that of the F-1 SSN form: The hiring department prints and signs a letter on their letterhead before the student comes to OGS for final approval. J-1 authorization cannot be issued for longer than one year at a time, so students must be attentive to renewing authorization for ongoing positions, such as doctoral teaching and research assistantships. Each J-1 on-campus position requires separate authorization.

Fixed-Hour Positions

Teaching and Research
Assistantships

20 Hours
15 Hours

Resident Assistants

20 Hours

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GSAS stipend-based Teaching & Research Assistantships have a fixed-hour value: In the first year of the program, both are considered 20 hour-per-week positions; in subsequent years, both are considered 15 hour-per-week positions. We realize that the weekly demands of these positions may vary from week-to-week and across departments, but this designation means that such a student may not have any additional employment or training in the first year, and may engage in only five additional hours per week in subsequent years. Hourly-wage TA and RA positions are not subject to this designation. Undergraduate Resident Hall Assistants are considered to be employed for 20 hours per week. In recent years we have heard a bit about students performing TA or RA responsibilities remotely. Unfortunately, remote on-campus work is not available to students in F/J status and should not be offered as a possibility. Students who receive a GSAS stipend to work remotely should be in touch with OGS to see if some other work authorization is possible.



Off-campus activity is the most restricted area of our students' lives. Any opportunity that furthers a student's academic and professional objectives must receive prior authorization and requires substantial planning. Employment violations are the most likely to jeopardize a student's legal status and access to future benefits in the United States.

Ground Rules

Authorization required for both
paid and **unpaid** positions

'Volunteering' confusion

Good academic standing

No babysitting, bartending, etc.

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Employment is the most restricted and misunderstood concept in the student regulations. Not needing authorization for unpaid opportunities seems to be the myth we have the most difficulty dispelling. There are many ways to describe experiential off-campus activities, but the regulatory language is 'Practical Training' or 'Academic Training', which require authorization for both paid and unpaid opportunities directly related to the major program of study.

Volunteering is perfectly permissible in F-1 or J-1 status, but students cannot 'volunteer' for the World Bank, or in any other context where they use and develop their academic and professional capacities. To truly volunteer is to contribute to a humanitarian or charitable cause in a capacity that does not require any of the expertise or skills being built in Georgetown's classrooms.

In order to be eligible for off-campus authorizations, a dean or program advisor must confirm good academic standing, which is a 3.0 GPA for graduate students; undergraduates must have at least a 2.0. There is no authorization available for revenue-padding activities such as babysitting or bartending, which under no circumstances may be undertaken legally by an F-1 or J-1 student.

F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Integral **to the** **curriculum**



- Course/tutorial → Add/drop deadline
- Non-credit degree requirement
- Doctoral dissertation

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Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is the only F-1 authorization that does not require an application to USCIS. DHS entrusts universities with the power to authorize opportunities that are considered 'integral to the academic curriculum'. CPT is authorized in 3-5 days in OGS after a complete submission of required documents. Typically, the student's enrollment in an internship course or tutorial is the basis for this authorization, but not every program has such an opportunity built into its academic structure. Additionally, doctoral students may waive out of the course enrollment requirement as long as the department provides a letter confirming that the internship/work is required for completion of the dissertation. CPT-eligible students and their advisors must be mindful of the add/drop deadline for internship courses, as CPT will not be available for a position offered mid-semester. The authorization only permits work within the confines of the academic term's start and end dates. CPT typically requires an F-1 student to complete one academic year before becoming eligible, unless an internship is *required* earlier in the program.

CPT: Your Role

- Ensure off-campus experiences are integral to the program's curriculum.
- Help students understand type(s) of work directly related to their degree.
- Request Form: Confirm good standing & course enrollment (if applicable).
- Ensure each period of authorization builds new skills.

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Whenever students apply for off-campus authorization, they require an academic advisor's signature on the Request Form. Since CPT is approved here in OGS, it is closely scrutinized by the Department of Homeland Security. Together, our responsibility is to ensure that the internship course is integral to the curriculum – that it carries credit that is a university standard, that there are academic deliverables that warrant the credit, that it is open to all students, international and domestic, that it has content and substance that are directly related or integral to the degree. Students often ask us how they will know if a position they hold while on CPT or OPT is directly related to their degree. You can help them understand the type of work that their degree best equips them to do. When undergraduates are in the process choosing their major, they may want to consider the field in which they hope to work after graduation. Many students hope to transition from Post-Completion OPT into the employer-sponsored H-1B 'Specialty Occupation' visa category. When applying for advanced benefits like this, the direct relationship between the degree and all training performed throughout a student's F-1 or J-1 history is closely scrutinized.

Some academic programs do not have established internship classes and are not eligible for CPT. Some programs allow internship course enrollment only once or twice. OGS limits the number of times a student may enroll in an internship course to get CPT authorization to three per degree program. Each

new period of authorization requires articulation of how further authorizations expands and builds upon previous experiences. Enrollment related to tutorial courses are more complex. GSAS has developed a sample tutorial format to help programs using the 900 course series to meet the OGS and government guidelines.

The use of this particular authorization demands careful planning by all parties. The academic advisor has the crucial role of certifying that the position is directly related to the field of study. No matter how sympathetically a student begs for approval, be mindful that any activity later deemed not to have been sufficiently related could jeopardize the student's future in the United States. Of course, undergraduates must declare a major before a position may relate directly to it. Similarly, doctoral students must have an approved dissertation topic in order to receive authorization for an off-campus activity that is necessary for their research. Just as students would not repeat any course they have taken successfully, further CPT will only be issued for positions that develop new skills and give the student more advanced responsibilities.

DHS suspects that CPT may be subject to abuse, making it a target for enforcement and reform. Adding or changing a program's structure to include experiential education may require SEVP approval. If you would like our CPT guidance sheet for departments, just let us know and we can send it to you.

F-1 Optional Practical Training

- 12-month extension of F-1 status
- All positions directly related to degree
- Portable (multiple positions)
- No cost/paperwork for employer
- Continuous OGS support

OPT



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Optional Practical Training (OPT) is most commonly used at the end of a degree program to extend F-1 status by one year in order to implement the skills built during the degree program, but it is also sometimes used pre-completion by students without access to CPT. OPT is attractive to employers because it costs them nothing, nor does it impose a paperwork burden. A job offer is not required to apply, but applying to USCIS requires advance planning. Once approved, students can work in as many different positions as they'd like, including on-campus, as long as the work is directly related to their degree. The processing time for OPT can be at least 3 months, which makes it important for student to plan their timelines well in advance. Although most of Georgetown considers Post-Completion OPT students as alumni who have separated from the University, we remain the basis for their presence in the United States and continue to serve them as immigration advisors and as a resource in emergency situations

OPT: Your Role

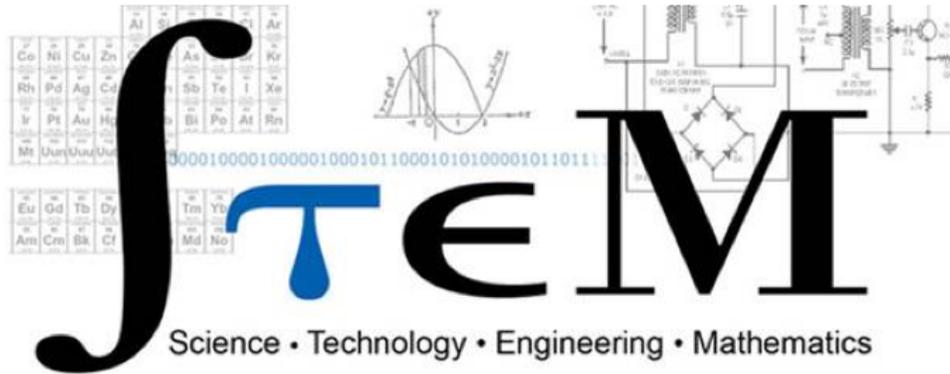
Confirm good standing & completion of studies.

Help students understand types of work directly related to their degree.

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Whenever students apply for off-campus authorization, they require an academic advisor's signature on the Request Form. Students may not apply for post-completion authorization until it is confirmed that to the best of your knowledge, they will meet the degree requirements. If you are unsure whether a student can actually make the GPA requirement for graduation or whether a student can successfully finish a class in their final semester, please do not sign the form, and contact us to discuss. Students often ask us when they should begin applying for jobs. We can only advise them on authorization timelines; they rely on you for expertise on industry hiring cycles. Students often ask us how they will know if a position they hold during OPT is directly related to their degree. You can help them understand the type of work that their degree best equips them to do.

F-1 STEM OPT Extension



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An additional two years of authorization is available to students with degrees in STEM fields. This authorization is subject to more oversight than the first year of post-completion activity.

STEM OPT Implications

GU is both...

- A provider of STEM OPT-eligible academic programs (based on program **CIP Code**)
- A STEM OPT **employer**

STEM OPT Advisors: Sarah Bunker & Danielle Valles

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Because Georgetown is a workplace for many of these students, we are subject to site visits by DHS personnel who verify compliance with regulations governing the authorization. STEM OPT eligibility is determined by a degree's coding within the Department of Education's Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) framework. DHS publishes STEM OPT-eligible CIP Codes on its Study In The States website. Often, the CIP Code was assigned at the program's inception. As the popularity of STEM degrees grows, more and more departments are considering the CIP Code assigned to their majors and degrees. To review and potentially change a CIP Code, the academic department must open a conversation with the Provost's Office. OGS plays no role in CIP Code review and implements the decisions of the Provost's Office and Registrar. Our STEM OPT advising is divided a bit differently than our other caseloads, and while any IS Advisor can help you and your students get the information they need, Sarah and Danielle are the experts in this particular work authorization.

Taxes

Legal filing obligation, regardless of income

OGS can:

- Provide basic tax filing guidance and resources
- Assist students with ITIN if not yet eligible for SSN

OGS cannot:

- Provide tax advice. We are not tax specialists!
- Prepare tax returns

Federal Tax Residency Status

Two Classifications:

- **Nonresident Alien**
 - First five years in F-1/J-1 immigration status
 - CANNOT use TurboTax
 - OGS provides free nonresident tax software
- **Resident Alien**
 - After five years in F-1/J-1 immigration status
 - Same filing obligations as U.S. citizens
 - CAN use TurboTax

Non-Employment Income

All awards above tuition and fees are taxable.

Georgetown Non-Service Award:

- If no SSN, must visit OGS at beginning of year to apply for ITIN

Georgetown Awards with no Restrictions:

- If not planning to work on-campus, must visit OGS at beginning of year to apply for ITIN

Tax Resources

- OGS tax website:
<https://internationalservices.goergetown.edu/tax>
- IGO session
- Annual tax reminder email blast in February
- IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov>



Beyond the realm of immigration compliance, OGS serves as a resource to both students and departments during the transition to life at Georgetown. We all know the iceberg analogy of culture. Many parts of our identities, values and beliefs are hidden. The type of initiative and independence expected at Georgetown can be unfamiliar and shocking to students. Based on our advising data, as well as current research trends, here are some important considerations.

Cultural Adjustment



Integration Challenges

- language,
- academic,
- socio-cultural,
- psychological,
- physical

Students report biggest pre-arrival concerns were
“making friends and adapting to American cultural norms.”
(2016-2018 International Student Exit Survey)

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Adjusting to a new environment takes considerable courage and time. Just like the cultural iceberg analogy, we see students walking around like this in Lauinger, but we need to remember that they may feel like this, lost and alone in the wilderness. And we all want to feel safety and belonging. Our students report upon graduation that they were most concerned about making friends and adapting to life here. So what are the barriers?

Research shows international students have unique stressors beyond those faced in the college student experience. The most critical stressors are tied to linguistic, academic and socio-cultural adjustment. Moreover, in today’s political climate, safety and well-being are growing concerns for international students.

We as administrators and our faculty have a responsibility to recognize the diverse backgrounds our international students bring to the community and to create an atmosphere of respect, transparency, and care for the whole person. How can we help?

3 C's Strategy

Communicate

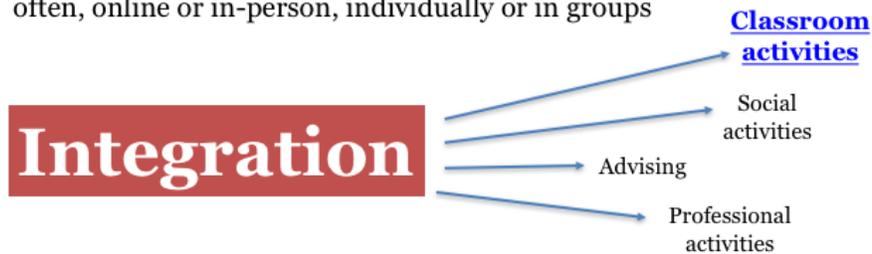
early, clearly and in different mediums if possible

Connect

campus and community resources, other students, clubs and orgs

Check-in

often, online or in-person, individually or in groups



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Communicate with international students in-person if possible. It's critical to be concise and transparent with expectations both in verbal and written communication.

Communicate with us and other campus partners if you sense a student is distressed or in need of support you cannot provide. Asking open-ended questions, such as "How are you feeling?" and "What questions do you have for me?" can result in better understanding of the student's situation.

Be mindful to connect/refer these students to campus resources, services and information they need to access. Connect students to each other by integrating activities in the classroom and within departmental activities. This act of connecting can serve as a great example of networking!

Check-in with these students when you are available. Validate their experience as challenging.

Be intentional with integration – bringing global perspectives into activities, staying aware of current international events that may affect your students, encouraging student involvement on campus. And we have specific tips on our website for supporting adjustment and integration in the classroom, so I encourage you to visit, bookmark and share with faculty in your department.



Finally, we love the Hoya Wellness Wheel and believe that its integrative approach is especially important for individuals who have been transplanted into this unfamiliar context. We introduce it to students at orientation and we hope that you are using it as well to direct students to the best resources Georgetown can provide.

Thank You!

Dates to Remember

Document issuance deadlines:

- 6/7: MiM
- 6/27: MBA
- 7/12: Econ
- 7/19: GSAS/Undergraduate
- Sunday-Tuesday, 8/18-20 → **IGO**
- Thursday, 8/22 → Early Move-In for **I-NSO** (Athletes, Transfers, & Pre-Orientation **must** attend I-NSO)
- Late October/Early November → Advanced Scenario-Based Department Training

Take-Home Reminders

- J-1 Exchange Visitor Incident Reporting:
- Cautious expectations for new program development
- Sensitivity towards increased scrutiny and restrictions in every phase of nonimmigrant status

Stay in Touch

- <https://globalservices.georgetown.edu/contactus>

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Thank you for devoting the time and energy to engaging in these issues that affect this unique portion of our international community. We are grateful for your partnership and are always at your service. Feel free to reach out, to question and share concerns. Our goal is to support our international students as they work toward their unique academic and professional objectives – but also to protect them and the institution from actions that could jeopardize compliance and have unintended repercussions. Most of the information discussed today is available on our website for your reference. Please be mindful of the dates that structure our work, especially for the incoming cohorts. Take back to your colleagues our guidance about the J-1 Exchange Visitor Incident Reporting requirement and the need to plan new academic programs with cautious expectations for enrolling international students. We are always open to hearing from you, and appreciate any feedback that can improve our trainings or our relationship with your offices. Thank you!