International Student Orientation 2017

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Purpose of Presentation

Introduce you to your resources.

Provide information to help you maintain your legal status.

Complete your mandatory check-in procedure with SEVIS.
The Role of the International Office

ADVICE: Advise on immigration and other governmental regulations.

SUPPORT: Provide academic and life support.

PROGRAMMING: Offer opportunities for campus and community involvement.

ADVOCACY: Represent and voice your interests, needs and concerns.
Who Is An International Student?

- A person here on the F-1 visa
- Their purpose in the U.S. is to be a full-time degree seeking student.
- They are required to comply with F-1 nonimmigrant visa regulations.
Important Note

Concordia University is here to help, but you are ultimately responsible for your status.

Please do not hesitate to ask us for help at any time.
The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a secure internet-based system, run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

SEVIS allows schools to:

- Provide certain authorizations to students.
- Convey required information to the U.S. federal government.
- Parts of SEVIS information can be seen by U.S. Embassies and Consulates, the school you are attending, and other U.S. federal agencies.
Maintain Your Status

- Enroll full time.
- Accept employment only as authorized.
- Maintain valid documents:
  - Passport must be valid at all times.
  - I-20 must be valid and up-to-date at all times.
- Update your changes by emailing Emily Sipe esipe@cu-Portland.edu
  - Full name
  - G Number
  - Details about change
Online Courses

You may take online courses, but only one course (maximum of 3 credits) per semester may count towards your fulltime enrollment requirement.

During your final semester of study, your credits must be on-ground.
Reducing Your Course Load

➢ There are very few acceptable reasons you may be authorized to enroll below fulltime.

➢ You MUST first obtain approval before reducing your course load in order to maintain your legal status.

➢ Concordia University approvals are reported to the federal government via SEVIS.
Acceptable Reasons

- **Academic or language difficulty** - Available for only 1st Semester

- **Final term of study** – Available when you do not need a fulltime load to complete your degree requirements.

- **Coursework completed** - Graduate students pursuing their thesis or dissertation can be authorized to reduce their course load once required courses are completed.
On-Campus Employment

F-1 Status

1. No additional work permission is needed.
2. Cannot exceed over 20 hrs/wk during fall & spring semesters.
3. Can work over 20 hrs/week during vacation periods (winter, spring & summer breaks).

Webpage

Student Employment/Work Study Jobs

Welcome to Concordia University's On-Campus Student Employment site. On-Campus opportunities are plenty and if you play it right, you will find something that works great for you and helps to pay for your college education.

Search Jobs

- Activities Coordinator (Student)
- Administrative Assistant (Student - Various Potential Departments)
- ASCU Secretary (Student STU001)
- Campus Safety Liaison (Student - 7W0900/700900)
- Chapel Slide Show Coordinator (603900)
- Custodial and Grounds Assistants (Student)
- Data Processing Assistant (Student - 6W1902/601902)
- ELS Transition Helper (6W0907)
- Faculty and Teaching Aides (Student)
- Game Management Aide - (Student 6W2900/602900)
1. Position MUST be related to major(s).
2. Generally available after maintaining visa status for one academic year.
3. You must be getting credit.
4. Attend a CPT/OPT Session (October/February)
   **we will not cover off-campus work regulations today.**
The Social Security Number

• Only students with employment are eligible to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN).

• Everyone needs approval from Concordia University in order to apply for an SSN.

  ▪ **F-1 students**: Request SSN form from International Office
Report Your Addresses

Federal regulations require you to report address changes within 10 days of moving.

- **Home Address** must list permanent address abroad.
- **Mailing Address** must list current residence in U.S.
- **Emergency Address** is not required, but strongly recommended.

All addresses must be a physical street address. No P.O. Box addresses allowed.
Keep Valid and Accurate Documents

Your I-20 cannot expire during your studies. If you need additional time to complete your degree, start the renewal process at the beginning of the semester your document will expire.

Report any changes on your I-20:

- Field of Study (Major)
- Degree Level
- Financial Support
- Name
- Dependent Statuses

Your Passport cannot expire in the U.S. Contact your home country embassy or consulate in the U.S. to renew your passport at least 6 months before it expires.
Your Visa May Expire While in U.S.

It is okay for your F-1 in your passport to expire while you are in the U.S.

The visa must only be valid when crossing the border to enter into the U.S.

It is **not** possible to renew your visa while inside the United States.
Maintain Your Student Status

1. **Enroll Fulltime** during the academic year at the school listed on your I-20 or DS-2019. Obtain authorization *before* reducing your course load.

2. Keep your **I-20 valid and extend** it *before* it expires.

3. **Renew your Passport** with your home country consulate *before* it expires.

4. **Work only as authorized** and get an SSN.

5. **Abide by the law.** Conviction of a crime could jeopardize your status.

6. **Depart the U.S. within your grace period.**
To re-enter the U.S. you need:

1. Valid passport
2. Valid visa stamp
3. A travel endorsement (less than 12 months)
4. Financial support documents

Travel Endorsement

![Travel Endorsement Form]

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Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: (F-1) NAME:

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION

AUTHORIZED DROP BELOW FULL COURSE OF STUDY

TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT

This page when properly endorsed, may be used for reentry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each certification signature is valid for one year.

Designated School Official | TITLE | SIGNATURE | PLACE ISSUED
---|---|---|---
X
X
X
X
X
Grace Periods

F-1 Grace Periods
An F-1 student may remain in the United States for up to 60 days beyond the completion of the program of study and OPT.

Authorized Early Withdrawals
15-day grace period to depart the United States.

Restrictions During the Grace Period
You may not reenter the U.S. in F-1 status.
You may not apply for a program extension.
You may not work or study.
General Advice

• Make and keep copies of all your visa status documents:
  1. I-20
  2. I-94 arrival/departure information or card
  3. F-1 visa stamp
  4. Passport (photo & expiry pages)

• Do not carry around your documents traveling outside of the U.S.

• Keep originals in a safe place and copies in separate location.
Next Steps

You will receive an email to pick up your “ACTIVE” I-20 at the end of the week.

Make sure of the following:

- All information is correct
- ISS Office signature
- Your signature
- Travel Endorsement Signature
How to Contact:

Office Hours: Drop in or by appointment

Location: GRW 318-D

Email: esipe@cu-Portland.edu

Days and Times: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-5pm

Appointment: Must be made one week in advance unless it is an emergency**

**Emergency
Hospitalizations  Death in the family  Life-threatening issues
Family safety-related issues  Severe injury/illness  Pregnancy
Violence  Apartment fire or natural disaster  Crime