

BOSTON COLLEGE

**IMMIGRATION
REGULATIONS**

*FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS*

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The following sections review the principle conditions of the Student (F-1) and Exchange Visitor (J-1) visas and the responsibilities of all international students. Please read the information carefully. You are responsible for meeting the obligations to maintain your legal status in the United States.

The information in this book is the most recent information available but is subject to change. The Office of International Students and Scholars will keep you informed of any changes as we become aware of them, so check your Boston College e-mail account and our website at www.bc.edu/oiss regularly for updates.

If you have any questions and for further information, contact the Office of International Students and Scholars, 21 Campanella Way, Suite 249, 617-552-8005.

I. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

F-1	Student visa
J-1	Exchange Visitor visa
I-20	Immigration Form for F-1 students
DS-2019	Immigration Form for J-1 Exchange Visitors
SEVIS	Student Exchange Visitor Information System
EAD	Employment Authorization Document
DOS	Department of State
DHS	Department of Homeland Security (formerly known as INS)
CIS	Citizenship and Immigration Services
ICE	Immigration and Customs Enforcement
CBP	Bureau of Customs and Border Protection
D/S	Duration of Status
OPT	Optional Practical Training
CPT	Curricular Practical Training

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

SEVIS is an internet-based tracing system for F-1 students, J-1 exchange visitors and their dependents (F-2 and J-2). SEVIS enables schools to transmit information electronically to the Immigration Service throughout a student's stay in U.S. Examples of such information includes entry/exit data, changes of address, program extensions, employment notifications, and changes in program of study.

B. Maintaining Status (Important!)

It is extremely important that you learn and comply with the terms of your F-1 or J-1 status. Failing to comply will violate your status and will be reported to the Immigration Service.

In order to maintain your immigration status you should:

- **Be enrolled as a full-time student during the regular academic year for the duration of your studies.** Undergraduates must be enrolled for at least 12 credits of course work each semester. Graduate students usually carry 9-12 credits each semester or be working full-time on a thesis. Each graduate department has its own definition of full-time, so be sure to meet the approval of your particular department and the Dean's office of your school. You cannot drop below full time without PRIOR approval
- **Do not engage in unauthorized employment.** Obtain work permission before working on or off campus. Do not begin work without prior authorization from the Office of International Students and Scholars.
- **Report your current local address.** Upon arrival to Boston College and throughout your stay, update OISS (through Agora Portal) within 10 days of the address change.
- **Report changes of academic status.** Changes include a leave of absence, change in graduation date, or withdrawal from the university. These must be reported BEFORE the change occurs.
- **Report any dependents.** The Office of International Students and Scholars must have biographical and immigration records on all dependents.
- **Obtain extensions of your I-20 or DS-2019 when appropriate.** This must be done BEFORE the end date on your I-20 or DS-2019, and do not remain in the U.S beyond your authorized stay (see "Extensions of Stay").
- **Observe Grace Periods.** F-1 students are allowed to stay in the U.S. for 60 days after your completion of studies and J-1 students and scholars are allowed 30 days after completion of studies.
- **Notify OISS if you will transfer programs or schools.** To transfer, you must be accepted to the new school and must be eligible to transfer based on having maintained status at the current school (see "Transferring to Another School or Changing Degree Program").
- **Report your employer information** to the OISS while on post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT).

C. Dependents

Dependents must report to the Office of International Students and Scholars with their immigration documents. An F-2 child may only engage in full-time study if the study is in an elementary or secondary school (kindergarten through 12th grade). J-2 dependents can study full-time as a degree seeking or non-degree seeking student.

D. Taxation

Filing federal income tax forms is the responsibility of each international student. The OISS is able to provide general guidance but cannot give specific advice regarding individual tax returns. Please do not file your tax return paperwork until you have received all necessary tax filing documents from BC and/or other employers and universities. To help determine which tax filing documents you may need to file, please refer to the OISS website. The OISS purchases a limited number of tax preparation software licenses each year to help students with the process.

E. Health Insurance

All international students are required to purchase and will be billed automatically for the Boston College health insurance plan. You cannot waive the fee and apply for a refund unless you have comparable medical insurance from another United States insurance company or from the Embassy of your home country. If you have already arranged comparable health insurance from another U.S. insurance company which is comparable or better than the BC policy, you can apply for a refund of the BC health insurance through AGORA.

Note: J-1 Exchange Visitor Students have different health insurance requirements! Please see section “Important Health Insurance Information for All J-1 Exchange Visitors.”

III. IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

A. Passport

You must keep your passport valid for at least six months into the future at all times. In order to renew your passport, you should contact the Embassy or Consulate of your country. If there is no consulate for your country in the Boston area, you will need to contact one in either New York or Washington, D.C.

B. Visa

The visa stamp identifies the visa classification (F-1, J-1, etc.), expiration date, and number of admissions for which the visa is valid. It is necessary to have a valid visa in order to enter the U.S. Once you arrive in the U.S., your visa is

allowed to expire. The validity period of the visa does not indicate how long you may remain in the U.S. after entry.

C. I-94 Form

The I-94 form (Entry Permit) is the small white card that was stapled in your passport at your port of entry to the U.S. The I-94 is very important and should be kept in a safe place. It indicates your date and port of entry, visa status, and how long you have been given permission to remain in the United States. The notation "D/S" means that your I-94 Form is considered to be valid as long as you are a full-time student at the school you were authorized to attend and your I-20 Form (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students) has not expired yet.

D. I-20 (F students) and DS-2019 (J Students)

Your I-20 or DS-2019 form is to be retained by you at all times. Both forms have a SEVIS ID number that is unique to the individual student and will be important in transactions with the Immigration Service. **It is very important that that you keep a copy of all I-20s or DS-2019s while you are student and after have you finished your studies.** If you apply for another visa status in the U.S. you could be asked for copies of your immigration forms. The I-20 form has a third page which will accumulate a record of all transactions about the student's status such as extension of stay, transfer of schools, off-campus work permission, and recommendation for practical training.

IV. TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

A. General Requirements for F and J Students

- **F1 Students: Valid I-20 with a signature on page 3.** Once signed, page 3 is valid for one year from the date of the signature (A signature is required every six months for Canadians, students on post-completion OPT and those renewing their visa) If there have been changes in your program (major, graduation date), you must obtain a new I-20 Form which reflects the changes. You will need to confirm that you are maintaining full-time status and have sufficient funds to support yourself before the OISS can sign page 3 or issue you a new I-20 Form.
- **J1 Students: Valid DS-2019 with an additional travel signature: on page 1:** You may use your DS-2019 for re-entry if your re-entry date falls within the period of validity noted on the form.
- **Valid passport and visa:** DO NOT re-enter on a visa other than your F or J visa. If you enter on a different visa (for example, B1/B2 or H) you will automatically assume that status in the U.S. and will

no longer be a student! If you have an expired visa or you have obtained a chance of status since you last traveled, you must obtain a new visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad. You cannot renew your visa in the U.S. If you are traveling to a country other than your own, you will also need to check with the Consulate of that country to see if you need a visa in order to enter that country.

- **I-94 form:** Your I-94 Form will be taken from you by an airline official when you leave the country, and you will be issued a new one by an immigration officer when you re-enter the U.S.

F-1 Post-completion OPT students: You will need the following documents to re-enter the country: EAD card, signed I-20, valid F-1 visa and job offer letter. It is not recommended you travel outside of the U.S. while waiting for your EAD card (Employment Authorization Document). If you need to travel, please contact the OISS.

Travel within the U.S.: Since September 11, it is also recommended that students carry all of their immigration documents with them even when traveling domestically within the U.S., although no signatures on the I-20 or DS-2019 are required. If you have a smart phone it is a good idea to scan electronic copies of your I-20 or DS-2019 and I-94 card into your phone.

B. Traveling to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean

All students should carry their I-94 card, passport, a valid I-20 Form (F students) or DS-2019 (J students). It is advisable that everyone also take evidence of financial support such as a bank statement, scholarship letter from your sponsor, etc.

For a visit of less than 30 days to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, the requirement that a valid U.S. visa be stamped into your passport for your return to the U.S. is waived if you have a valid I-94 Form; this process is known as “Automatic Revalidation.” Your I-94 form is reviewed but not taken from you. **Note: Automatic Revalidation is NOT available for anyone who applies for a visa in Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean.** If you apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa in Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean and are denied, you will not be able to return to the U.S. using Automatic Revalidation. You will be required to travel elsewhere (most likely home) and then apply for a visa at the U.S. consulate in order to re-enter the U.S.

Note! You should also find out if you are required to have a Canadian tourist visa in order to enter Canada. Visit www.canada-ny.org for a list or visit the OISS.

V. EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS FOR F-1 STUDENTS

A. On-Campus Employment

On Campus employment is defined as a work-study position for Boston College, off-campus employment which has a contract based educational affiliation with the University, or work for commercial firms on campus which provide services to students even if not owned by B.C.

- Limited to a total of 20 hours per week while school is in session (including any assistantships, stipends for leadership positions and any authorized off-campus employment). Full-time work is permitted during vacation periods such as Christmas break, spring break and summer vacation (if you are not taking classes). If you work more than 20 hours per week while school is in session (including any approved off-campus work) you will be in violation of your immigration status!
- On-campus work permission is authorized by the Office of International Students and Scholars.
- Students are not permitted to work during their first semester of study unless they have an assistantship. If otherwise eligible, new students are permitted to work during the 30 day period before they begin their program of study.
- Students who are transferring to another school or have graduated and will be starting a new degree program at another school are eligible to work on-campus during the summer of the transition period. However, they can only work on the campus of the school which currently is responsible for their record in SEVIS.

B. Off- Campus Employment: Curricular and Optional Practical Training.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT):

Curricular practical training (CPT) is off-campus employment, directly related to your field of study which is an integral part of the established curriculum and instrumental to achieving an academic objective.

CPT Requirements:

- Must be in good standing and have completed one academic year as a full-time student in order to be eligible.
- CPT must either be required for your degree (even if not for credit), or for which you are receiving academic credit. If for credit, the course that you enroll in for the CPT must count toward your degree and cannot be extra credit which is above and beyond what is necessary for you to graduate. The period for which you will receive the CPT employment authorization will directly correspond with the time that you are enrolled in the course.
- Can be part-time (less than 20 hours a week) or full-time. In most cases work cannot exceed more than 20 hours per week while school is in session.
- Curricular practical training can be part-time (less than 20 hours per week) or full-time depending on the requirements of your program. There is no limit on how long a student can participate in curricular practical training. However, students who receive one year or more of full-time curricular practical training are ineligible for optional practical training.
- Authorized by the OISS and takes approximately one week to be processed.

Examples of valid Curricular Practical Training experiences include:

- An MBA or MSF student who is taking an approved 3-credit Directed Research course, with a sponsoring faculty member as an elective during the second year of his program
- A Ph.D. student who must do research for her thesis which is only available at another university.
- A student in the GSSW who has a required practicum off campus as part of her program.
- Undergraduate student who has a required internship or can be enrolled in an independent study for credit.

Optional Practical Training (OPT):

If you have been a full-time student, maintaining status for at least one academic year, you are eligible for a total of 12 months of optional practical training *per degree level*. Any practical training that is authorized prior to completion of studies will be deducted from the total 12 month allotment for post-completion practical training. If you work part-time it will only be deducted at a half time rate.

OPT Requirements:

- Must have completed one academic year as a full-time student in order to be eligible.
- Employment must be directly related to student's major field of study.
- No job offer or letter from an employer is required to be eligible.
- 12 month allotment per degree level. Can be used before (pre-completion) and/or after (post-completion) completion of studies. Part-time (pre-completion only) is deducted one-half month from the 12 months.
- Usually cannot exceed 20 hours/week while school is in session including any on campus work or assistantships.
- Authorized by the Immigration Service and can take up to 3 months to be approved. You are not allowed to be working until your application has been approved and you have received your Employment Authorization Document. Please apply early to ensure you will receive your employment authorization in time to begin employment.

Examples of Practical training experiences:

- During your annual vacation provided you are eligible and intend to continue your full-time studies next term.
- While school is in session provided the practical training does not exceed twenty hours per week.
- After completion of all course requirements for the degree but before thesis, dissertation etc. has been completed.
- After completion of your degree.

17 month OPT extension for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields: The 12-month limit on (OPT) will be extended by 17 months, for a total of 29 months, for certain STEM degree holders. In order to apply for the 17 month extension, you will need to have your current U.S. degree in STEM field and be working in a job directly related to your degree. The employer must also be part of the e-verify employment verification system.

Post-Completion Practical Training Reporting and Employment Requirements:

- **Address Reporting requirement:** Students on post-completion OPT must report any change in name or address within 10 days of the change as well as the name and address of their employer or any change or interruption in employment.

- **Employment requirement:** All students are required to be employed in their field of studies. More specifically, you may not accrue more than 90 days of unemployment under the initial 12-month period of OPT. The definition of employment is somewhat flexible and can be part-time (at least 20 hours), a combination of different jobs, and volunteer (unpaid) employment. Students granted a 17-month OPT extension may not accrue an aggregate of more than 120 days of unemployment during the total 29-month OPT period.

Academic Studies after Practical Training: If a student wishes to pursue further academic studies at any time after commencing Post OPT you must request that your immigration form be transferred to the new school. Please note that you cannot study on a degree program while on OPT.

C. Off-Campus Employment: Based on Severe Economic Hardship

If other employment opportunities are not available, students maintaining F-1 status for one academic year can also apply for off-campus work authorization based upon severe economic hardship. The economic need must be due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control such as substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate, unexpected changes in the financial conditions of the student's source of support, or medical bills. The student will need to submit supporting materials to document the unforeseen circumstances. For specific procedural information, please contact the OISS.

D. Work for Spouses and Children of F-1 Students

Accompanying spouses and children of F-1 students are classified as F-2. No paid employment of any kind is permitted.

VI. EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS FOR J-1 STUDENTS

The Office of International Students and Scholars can only authorize employment for students on Boston College's J-1 Exchange Visitor program. If you are sponsored by another organization, you must address any questions regarding your employment to your sponsor. Regulations for paid employment for Exchange Visitor Students are as follows:

A. On-Campus Employment

Permission for on-campus work must be obtained from the OISS unless arrangements for such employment were stated on the DS-2019 Form at the time of admission (for example, a graduate assistantship). On-campus work is limited to a maximum of 20 hours per week while school is in session but

can be full-time during vacation periods. Usually students do not work during their first semester of study.

B. Off-Campus Employment: Academic Training

Academic Training is employment directly related to your major field of study, which is an integral or critical part of your academic program. If you are a full-time student in good academic standing, you are eligible for a total of 18 months (or no longer than the period of time in which you were enrolled in your academic program) of academic training that can be used:

- During your course of study
- Upon completion of studies
- Combination of both

Academic Training that is a mandatory part of an academic program will not count towards the 18 months available. Part-time academic training counts as full-time toward the 18-month maximum. Post-doctoral students are potentially permitted to participate in academic training for up to 36 months.

You must have a specific job offer to be eligible for academic training. Academic training must be applied for within 30 days of completion of studies, although you may begin the training at a later date. **Please apply BEFORE the expiration date on your DS-2019.** If approved, the OISS will give you written authorization to engage in academic training for a specific employer and dates. No approval from the Immigration Service is required. If your current DS-2019 is expiring, you will be issued a new one to cover the period of time you will be undertaking academic training.

Off-campus employment during the school year (up to 20 hours per week or full-time during vacation periods) can also be approved by the sponsor (issuer of DS-2019) only if it is required by an urgent financial need that arose after obtaining J-1 visa status and the employment will not interfere with or reduce the full program of study.

C. Spouses and Children of the J-1 Exchange Visitor

Accompanying spouses and children of J-1 Exchange Visitors are classified as J-2. Dependents may apply to the Immigration Service for permission to accept employment if such employment is needed for the support of the dependents and not for the support of the J-1 Exchange Visitor. A letter should be included which states that the income derived from employment will be used only for support of the dependent. If permission for employment is granted, the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) will be valid for any kind of employment without full-time or part-time limitation. It will expire the same time as the authorized stay on the DS-2019 Form provided that the J-1 Exchange Visitor maintain status and the need continues to exist, unless otherwise noted.

VII. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND TAXES

A. Social Security Numbers

If you will be earning money in the U.S. and have authorization to work off campus or will be working on campus (including a graduate assistantship), you must apply for a Social Security number in order to be paid. Social Security numbers will NOT be issued for other purposes (i.e., for opening a bank account or for obtaining a driver's license) to international students who do not have employment authorization. If you will be working on campus please come to the OISS for the instructions and documentation needed to present to the Social Security Office.

Important! **A Social Security Number (SSN) alone does not give you authorization to work in the U.S.** You will need the SSN in addition to the necessary work permission from the OISS and the U.S. Immigration Service.

B. Income Taxes

All international students, scholars, and faculty should complete a Boston College Foreign National Information Form (available in the Payroll Office, and on-line at www.bc.edu/offices/hr/) upon their arrival. The form must be submitted to the Payroll Office before any check can be issued by the Payroll or Accounts Payable Departments and is also required for anyone receiving tuition remission or scholarship.

Additionally, students, scholars, and faculty are required to file federal and possibly state tax returns in April if they received any income in the United States. Foreign Nationals who have been employed or have received a non-service stipend are frequently required to pay U.S. federal and state income taxes. Regulations covering the subject are exceedingly complex. Moreover, the regulations vary according to treaty agreements between the U.S. and a number of other countries. The OISS and Human Resources Service Center will also provide information about income taxes in February. Be sure to keep records of remuneration received, terms of award or appointment, and copies of any income tax form filed.

VIII. EXTENSIONS OF STAY

International students who fail to complete their educational program within the time period indicated on their I-20 Form or DS-2019 Form are required to file a program extension. The student must demonstrate that he or she is currently full-time and has legitimate academic or medical reasons for a delay, such as a change in major or research topic, unexpected research problems, or documented illness. **You must apply for a program extension PRIOR to the expected graduation date indicated on your I-20 or DS 2019 Form.** If approved, the Office of International Students and Scholars will prepare a new I-20 Form

In order to apply for an extension you should:

- Obtain a letter from the chairperson of your department, faculty advisor, or Dean of your school which states that you are a full-time student; your new expected graduation date, and the valid reasons for the delay.
- Show appropriate financial certification for the extended period requested.

IX. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

In order to take a leave of absence you must obtain permission from your department or dean's office and then contact OISS.

A. Leave of Absence for Personal Reasons:

If you will be out of the country for MORE than five months you will not be eligible for certain benefits (for example, practical training) until you have been in legal status for another full academic year. To return to US you must have a new I-20 with a SEVIS number.

Please note that you CANNOT remain in the U.S. while on a leave of absence unless you have been approved for a documented medical leave.

B. Academic Leave of Absence:

If you will be out of the country for MORE than five months you will still be eligible for certain benefits (for example, practical training) if you are on BC approved study abroad program or doing research abroad for dissertation.

X. TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

A. F-1 Transfers to a New Degree Program at Boston College

If you will be enrolling in a changed or a second degree program at Boston College, you should bring a copy of your acceptance letter and evidence of your financial support to the Office of International Students and Scholars BEFORE your current I-20 expires. The Office of International Students and Scholars will issue a new I-20 Form for the new degree program.

B. Transferring your F-1 Status

If you are currently a student in the U.S. you MUST transfer your F-1 status. (This applies to all students including those students traveling prior to their arrival to Boston College as well as those starting a new degree).

An F-1 student is eligible to transfer to another academic institution if:

- In valid F-1 status
- Documents that he or she was a full-time enrolled student at the previous school.
- Intends to pursue a full course of study at the proposed institution
- Financially able to attend the new institution

The student must follow the transfer procedure outline below:

1. Enroll at the new institution for the next possible term. Inform the new school that you are currently an F-1 student.
2. Notify the International Student Office at the previous institution of your intention to transfer
3. You may also need to obtain a “transfer form” from the new institution that allows your former school to verify your immigration status.
4. The former university will “transfer out” and “release” your record electronically to your new school. The new school will not be able to print your new I-20 until the “release date” specified by the former school. Your SEVIS I-20 must be electronically transferred out within 60 days of completing your studies at the former institution. To remain in the U.S., you must begin attending classes at the new institution within five months of the program completion date on the current I-20 or within five months of transferring out of the previous school, whichever is earlier.
5. Report to the International Student Office at the new institution within 15 days of beginning classes at the new school to complete the transfer.

Note: You may re-enter the U.S. with their new I-20 without going to a U.S. Consulate if your I-20 form has been transferred and your F-1 visa is still valid. In addition, students will not need to pay the SEVIS fee. It is strongly recommended that you carry a copy of the previous I-20 form from the institution designated on your visa. If a student travels outside the U.S. between programs at different institutions and his or her visa expires before re-entry, a new visa should be obtained at a Consulate abroad using the new I-20 Form and proof of funds.

C. J-1 Transfers

You must notify your current sponsor of your plans and request that they release your SEVIS record to your new sponsor. The new sponsor will then issue a new DS-2019 Form for you and complete the transfer procedure. Please note that you must begin the transfer procedure before the expiration date of your current DS-2019 Form.

XI. CHANGES OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

Change of status can be done by traveling abroad and applying for a new visa or by filing a change of status while in the United States. Although generally it is possible to change from one visa status to another within the U.S., certain changes are more difficult and a few are not allowed. Students must plan accordingly since it can take a few months to obtain a change of status from the time the application is filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Here are some examples of typical changes of status:

A. Change from F-1 Student to B-2 Visitor

As part of your F-1 student status, you have a 60-day grace period to remain in the U.S. after you complete your studies. If you wish to stay longer to be a tourist, you can apply for a change of status to B-2 visitor. You must document that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during this time since no employment is permitted on the B-2 visa. You also will need to convince the Immigration Service of your intentions of returning home after your visit. Note: If you already have a valid tourist visa in your passport or you are from a country which allows you to enter on a “tourist waiver”, the change of status can be accomplished by leaving the country and re-entering as a tourist.

B. Change from F-1 Student to H-1b Temporary Worker

For students who wish to continue employment after the expiration of their practical, in most cases it is possible to change status from F-1 student to H-1b temporary worker. The employer must be willing to “petition” an H-1 for you. Obtaining an H-1 is much more complicated than other visa categories and involves the Department of Labor as well as the Immigration Service. Often the services of an immigration lawyer are advised.

C. Change from J-1 Exchange Visitor to Other Visa Categories

Students and scholars who are not subject to the two-year home residency requirement are free to change status to any other visa status for which they qualify. However, if you are subject to the two-year home residency requirements then you are prohibited from changing your visa status to that of an H-1, L-1, or permanent resident until you fulfill the requirement or obtain a waiver. Additionally, if you are subject to the requirement, you cannot change status to F-1 student within the U.S. You must leave the country and apply for the F-1 student visa at a Consulate abroad.

Exchange Visitors are also prohibited from changes in categories within the Exchange Visitor Program in the U.S. For example, you cannot change from

a J-1 student to a J-1 scholar or vice versa. Usually you can leave the U.S. and begin a new program. For more information, please contact OISS.

XII. IMPORTANT HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR ALL J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS

As part of the Department of State (DOS) J Exchange Visitor visa regulations, all J-1 and J-2 visa holders (spouses and children) are required to have health insurance with the following provisions:

- medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per illness or accident
- a deductible not to exceed \$500 per illness or accident coverage of pre-existing conditions after a reasonable waiting period
- payment by insurance company of at least 75% of the costs of medical care (the patient must not be required to pay more than 25%)
- payment for repatriation of remains (in case of death) in the amount of \$7,500
- payment for medical evacuation to home country in the amount of \$10,000
- coverage of activities inherent to the Exchange Visitor Program
- To comply with the regulations, insurance policies must be underwritten by corporations having one of the following ratings:
 - A.M. Best rating of “A-” or above
 - Insurance Solvency International, Ltd. rating of “A-i” or above
 - Standard and Poor’s claims-paying ability rating of “A-” or above
 - Weiss Research Inc. rating of “B+” or above

An Exchange Visitor who willfully fails to maintain the insurance coverage or makes a material misrepresentation to Boston College concerning such coverage is in violation of his or her immigration status and is subject to termination as a J-1.

A. J-1 Exchange Visitor Students

The Boston College Health insurance plan, meets the minimum health insurance requirements. All students will be enrolled and billed automatically for the Boston College medical insurance at the time of registration. Students with spouses and/or children must complete a dependent enrollment plan available from University Health Services in order to obtain coverage for their family members

ADDRESSES OF OFFICES FREQUENTLY USED

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), District Office
John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room E-160
Government Center, Boston, MA 02203
(Green “T” Line to Government Center stop)
Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Appointments must now be made on-line using <http://infopass.uscis.gov/>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Vermont Service Center
75 Lower Weldon Street
St. Albans, VT 05479
National Customer Service Center: 1-800-375-5283
Case status and processing dates: www.uscis.gov

Internal Revenue Service, Taxpayer Service Division
John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room E-100
Government Center, Boston, MA 02203
General Information: 1-800-829-1040 (National) 617-316-2850 (Boston).
Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
www.irs.gov

Social Security Office, Boston
10 Causeway Street, Room 148
Boston, MA 02222
1-800-772-1213
(Green “T” Line to North Station)
Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.ssa.gov/boston

Canadian Consulate General
Immigration Section
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
212-596-1783 Fax: 212-596-1790
www.canada-ny.org

U.S. State Department Website: www.travel.state.gov
Links to U.S. Embassies and Consulates Abroad: <http://usembassy.state.gov/>
Links to Foreign Embassies in the U.S.: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>
Travel to Mexico: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/english/>
ESTA Electronic System for Travel Authorization: (Tourist Waiver Program)
<https://esta.cbp.dhl.gov/esta>

NOTES: