



# Boston College OISS

Office of International Students and Scholars

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## U.S. Immigration Responsibilities for F1 and J1 Students

Although the OISS is here to help you understand and comply with US immigration regulations, **maintaining legal immigration status is the responsibility of the individual student or exchange visitor**. Below is a list of immigration regulations and OISS policies that you must follow. Be sure to read each statement **CAREFULLY** and make sure that you understand each statement. If you have any questions, please ask an OISS advisor.

- Update your local US address.** Report all address updates in the AGORA Portal within 10 days of moving.
- Maintain full-time student status.** Full-time status is 12 credits for undergraduate students and 9 credits for graduate students. If you want to drop below full-time, speak with the OISS before dropping any classes.
- Observe online course limits.** Students with "Initial Status" I-20s may NOT enroll in ALL online-only courses. Students with "Continued Attendance" or "Transfer Pending" I-20s may enroll in more than 1 online-only course. Consult OISS for details.
- Obtain travel signatures.** If you plan to travel outside the US, you must have your I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students) signed on page 2 by an OISS advisor. **Travel signatures are valid for one year** for most students. **(Canadian citizens require a signature every six months).**
- DO NOT WORK WITHOUT PERMISSION.** If you are interested in working on- or off-campus, please speak with an OISS advisor before you do so.
- Report changes in your academic status.** For example, any leaves of absence, changes in completion of studies dates, and/or withdrawal from BC must be reported to OISS in advance.
- Obtain extensions.** If you require additional time to complete your studies, you must apply for an extension BEFORE your current I-20 or DS-2019 expires.
- Observe grace periods.** F-1 students have a 60-day grace period and J-1 students have a 30-day grace period to depart the US following the completion of studies date. (This date may be different from the date on your I-20 or DS-2019 and is not necessarily the same as your graduation date.)
- Maintain the required health insurance coverage.** All students are required to enroll in BC health insurance.
- Keep copies of all issued Immigration Forms, including those from past schools.** We recommend keeping scanned copies of all immigration documents (I-20s or DS-2019s, visas, passports, etc.).
- Check your BC email account regularly.** OISS will send important notices, updates, and other immigration information to your BC email account.

**NOTE: This list outlines basic immigration regulations, but is not inclusive. All regulations are subject to change. Check your BC email and the OISS website regularly for updates from the OISS.**