

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - JANUARY EDITION

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT RIGHTS 2024-2025



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Being an international student, your rights and way of life can be quite different from that of a national-based student. This guide should provide international students with a better understanding of the resources and opportunities they have to excel on Indiana University's campus.

US Immigration Regulations

“Regarding US immigration regulations what should I watch out for?”

- As of now, there are many things international students must look out for in regards to maintaining their immigration status. Your status can be lost for simple things such as:
 - Taking too many online courses
 - Taking classes at another university while at IU
 - Finishing your program of study in the summer with the wrong enrollments
 - Finishing your studies with an internship
 - Volunteering
 - Enrolling less than full time; even if you just drop a class or drop below full time for a short period

“How can I ensure I keep my status up to date?”

- The Office of International Services gives a resource for international students to update their F-1 and J-1 statuses, as well as giving outlined lists as to possible violations to avoid.
 - F-1 Status: A visa status for students eligible to enroll in academic programs in the United States. It allows full-time study at accredited colleges, universities, and other academic institutions.
 - J-1 Status: A non-immigrant visa issued by the United States to research scholars, professors and exchange visitors participating in programs that promote cultural exchange, especially to obtain medical or business training within the U.S.

“How can I ensure I maintain my status”

- Before making any of the above changes or decisions in your academic career at IU, it is highly suggested to speak with an *Office of International Services (OIS) Advisor* to ensure the decision is one you can make. Along with that, checking the boxes below can also help maintain your status overall:
 - Enroll full time.
 - Don't work without authorization (see below under “Work Eligibility”)
 - Keep your I-20 or DS-2019 up to date.
 - I-20: Officially titled the "Certificate of Eligibility" because with it, you are "eligible" to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad.
 - DS-2019: A controlled document used by the Department of State to administer the Exchange Visitor Program. It is the basic document for prospective exchange visitors seeking a J visa to enter the United States for educational, research, or cultural exchange programs.
 - Read all the e-mails from OIS completely and ask questions if they don't make sense.
 - Keep your addresses and phone numbers current in One.IU.
 - Set up voicemail on your phone.

Work Eligibility

“What forms are important to understand for work eligibility as an international student?”

- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS): A federal database that maintains records on nonimmigrants. It receives updated information from schools and sponsors, such as changes of domestic address and in-program study.
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT): A temporary work authorization for international students on F-1 visas. It allows international students to work off-campus during their academic program after one year of full-time study.
- I-94 Form: Also known as the Arrival-Departure Record Card, is a document issued by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to track the arrival and departure of non-U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

“How do I apply for a Social Security number?”

- For tax purposes, anyone receiving income must provide their employer with a Social Security number.
- If you want to get a Social Security number, you must apply in person at the local Social Security Administration office.
 - All international applicants must show the following documents to complete an application:
 - Valid passport
 - I-20, DS-2019, or other document indicating nonimmigrant/immigrant status
 - One additional piece of identification—a student ID card, driver’s license, credit card, etc.

“How can I find a job during my time at IU?”

- Interstride
 - A global career development platform created exclusively for international students.
- Job Fairs
 - Career Services makes it easy to find job fairs and other career events at various times during the year.
- Classified Ads
 - The Indiana Daily Student (IDS) newspaper lists jobs in its classified section. Look for hourly, on-campus jobs (unless you qualify for off-campus employment).
- University Employers
 - Places such as Residence halls (cafeterias, center stores, etc.), the Indiana Memorial Union (many different positions), Wells and other school libraries, Museums, and recreational sports (referees, supervisors, etc.) are all often hiring and are a good place for international students to start their search.
- Academic Departments
 - Many IU departments and offices fill their open positions directly. Contact your academic unit and professors for possible job openings.

Housing and Health Insurance

“What living options are available to me at IU?”

- At IU, there are many options for housing both on and off campus for you to explore. If you are looking for a short term stay at the university, there are many hotels surrounding the Bloomington campus, as well as the Biddle Hotel located within IU’s campus at the Indiana Memorial Union.
 - [On-Campus Housing Options](#)
 - [On-Campus Housing Application](#)
 - When applying for on-campus housing, IU provides options of the Fall Semester for first time applicants, 25-26 Housing for returning students, spring semester applicant options, and summer term housing. To apply, follow the hyperlink below:
 - Off-Campus Housing Options
 - When looking for the best place for off-campus housing, the first place to look is online. IU suggests apartment search websites, local newspapers, and networking to find a right fit for you.
 - IU also has a resource known as IU Classifieds, in which students can look for a rental or a roommate.

“Am I required to have health insurance as an international student?”

- All international students and scholars are required to have an insurance plan with coverage that meets minimum requirements.
 - Indiana University works hard to advocate each year when negotiating details for the IU International Plan with Anthem—a full-service insurance company. You pay a fee, but the premium is reasonable.
 - Some benefits International Students can get with this plan are as follows:
 - Preventative Care; Pre-existing condition coverage; Maternity Care; Behavioral Health; Serious Injuries or Accidents; Sports and Athletics; Physical Therapy
 - Indiana University’s Human Resources (HR) department has a variety of detailed information about the plan, the coverage it provides, and the expected costs that you would pay.



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