

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

SLATER INTERNATIONAL CENTER

International Student Immigration Guidelines

As an International Student in the U.S., you must maintain your legal immigration status. There are several requirements that you must be aware of and comply with. Please be proactive and read Slater International Center E-mails and Google Group posts, attend immigration information sessions, and contact your International Student and Scholar Advisor if you have any questions or concerns.

What Document Do You Need?	What Is It For?	Where Can You Get It?	Do You Have To Renew It? When? How?
Valid Passport	A passport serves as a form of identification and proof of citizenship. It enables you to enter a foreign country and re-enter your own country.	At the appropriate office in your home country, or if you lose it in the U.S., at your nearest home country embassy or consulate.	Yes, six months before it expires. Apply at the appropriate offices at home, or in your consulate or embassy in the U.S.
Valid Visa	A visa gives you permission to <u>ENTER</u> the United States. As long as you stay in the U.S., you do not need a valid visa. If you leave the U.S., you will need a valid visa to re-enter the U.S. A visa cannot be renewed in the U.S.	At a U.S. Embassy abroad. You can only get a U.S. visa outside of the U.S.	If your visa expires, there is no need to renew it as long as you stay in the U.S. You must renew your visa if you wish to re-enter the U.S. after an absence, however short (unless you visit Canada or Mexico). It is recommended that you apply at a U.S. Embassy in your home country.
Form I-94	A Form I-94 is an arrival and departure record that documents your entry to the U.S. and gives you permission to <u>STAY</u> in the U.S. It is usually valid for as long as your program of study.	If you enter the U.S. by land you will receive your Form I-94 at the border. If you enter the U.S. by air or sea your Form I-94 is automated and you can get a print out of it at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov . Please print a copy after each entrance to the U.S.	Only if you have a specific date noted on your Form I-94, you must apply for “an extension of stay”. Please come to the Slater International Center for guidance.
Current Form I-20/ Form DS-2019	A Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 shows where you are attending school, what you are studying, and how long you will need to complete your program.	From the school you will be attending in the U.S.	You must request a new Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 if any of the information on your form changes (i.e. major, source/amount of funding, program end date). You can get a new Form from the Slater International Center. Keep all copies of previous Form I-20s/DS-2019s.

What Do You Need to Do?	Why?	How?	When?
<p>Comply with SEVIS Requirements</p>	<p>In order to continue your studies legally in the U.S., you must maintain your immigration status by complying with U.S. Department of Homeland Security Regulations and SEVIS reporting requirements. It is your responsibility. There are serious penalties for students who do not maintain legal status.</p>	<p>Slater International Center staff will assist and guide you during your program but it is your responsibility to learn by asking questions and going to information sessions. In order to maintain your status you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Check-in at Slater International Center → • Register full-time (at least 3 units each semester) → • Report any change of address → • Report any change in your academic status, (i.e. drop below full-time, leave of absence) or financial information to the Slater International Center. → • Obtain authorization for all employment → 	<p>Every semester the Department of Homeland security requires schools to register each enrolled international student in the SEVIS system to verify that she is maintaining status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you arrive on campus for Pre-Orientation • Fall & spring semesters • Within 10 days of changing your address. • Before any change in academic status occurs • Before undertaking any on or off campus work
<p>Travel Outside of the U.S. with a Valid Travel Signature</p>	<p>If you travel outside of the U.S. and plan to re-enter in the same status, you must have a valid travel signature from your International Student & Scholar Advisor on your Form I-20/Form DS-2019. This signature confirms your current status. You must also have a valid visa and a valid passport.</p>	<p>Come to the Slater International Center during walk-in hours, or contact Slater staff to make an appointment to get a travel signature. Be sure to bring all of your immigration documents with you.</p>	<p>Before you leave the U.S. on a break or summer vacation. For F-1 students; your travel signature is located on page 2 of your Form I-20. It is valid for one year from the date of the signature while you are a student, and 6 months while you are on Optional Practical Training. For J-1 students; your travel signature is located in the lower right corner of your Form DS-2019 and is usually valid for the duration of your program.</p>