INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

Dr. Charity Alinda, PDSO/RO – Associate Director of International Student and Scholar Services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand the International Student Journey (ISJ) and importance of compliance with Federal immigration laws to ensure student visa status maintenance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand how you can contribute to the International Student Journey at MU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn about the Scholar's program and how International Programs and Services office can help.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The International Student Journey

- Pre-Arrival: Preparation
- Arrival: Orientation & Transition
- Beginning Studies: 1st Year Check-In Plan
- Ongoing Support: 2nd Year Check-In Plan
- Ongoing Support: 3rd Year Check-In Plan
- Ongoing Support: 4th Year Check-In Plan
- Final Year Transition: Support & Alumni Relations
- Post-Completion: Support & Alumni Relations
VISA APPLICATION PROCESS
F/J VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

1. If eligible, student gets a Form I-20 or DS-2019
2. Completes Form DS-160
3. Pays SEVIS fee
4. Schedules the visa appointment
5. Waits for visa approval!
- Arrival & Pick-Up
- Housing & Check-In
- Shopping
Orientation to Campus
Ongoing Services and Assistance
Orientation to Lancaster County, PA
Special Events
Permitted Student Enrollment – Fall and Spring Semesters

Undergraduate Level
At least 12 credits per semester

Graduate Level
6 Credits per semester

Online Course
3 credits per semester
Permitted International Student Employment

**On-Campus Employment**
- Benefit of F-1 or J1 visa – Not special/additional authorization needed
- 20 hours/week during academic session
- Over 20 hours/week during school breaks

**Curriculum Practical Training (CPT)**
- Internship/Practicum Training
- Academic Training (J1 Visa)
- Must be related to academic major
- Recommended by academic department
- Approved by IPS

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)**
- Pre - Completion OPT
- Post - Completion OPT
- STEM OPT Extension (24 months)
- Must be related to academic major
- Recommended by IPS
- Adjudicated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

**Off-Campus Employment**
OPT TIMELINE

Apply up to 90 days before Graduation Date

Application window

90 Days

Can choose any day within 60-day window after graduation for OPT start date.

*Cannot have a start date that is MORE THAN 60 days after graduation date.

OPT Period

OPT Employment of 12 months

*Cannot accrue more than 90 days aggregate total of unemployment during 12 months

*if eligible, can file for STEM 24-month extension. Must file before expiration of EAD card.

60 days

60 days

Grace period of 60 days to either leave U.S., transfer to another school, or change to another visa category

60 days

*Please note – if you are remaining in the U.S. for the grace period, you cannot leave and re-renter.

End date on 12 month EAD card. Last date to work unless granted extension

Depart U.S.
### Reduced Course Load (RCL) Provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Academic Difficulties, including:** | • Can only be used for the initial academic term  
  • Student must maintain a minimum six-credit course load, or half the clock hours required for a full course of study  
  • Student must begin a full course of study at the next offered term  
  • RCL start and end dates must correspond to the school session start and end dates |
| Improper course level placement  |                                                                                                |
| Initial difficulty with reading requirements |                                                                                                |
| Initial difficulty with the English language |                                                                                                |
| Unfamiliarity with U.S. teaching methods |                                                                                                |
| **Illness or Medical Condition**   | • Cannot exceed 12-month aggregate per program level  
  • May excuse a student from all classes  
  • Student must provide medical documentation from a licensed:  
    • Medical Doctor  
    • Doctor of Osteopathy  
    • Clinical Psychologist  
  Start date should be the date DSO approved the RCL |
| **To Complete Course of Study In Current Term** | • Used in a student’s final term if he/she can complete the program with fewer classes  
  • Student must be enrolled in at least one required class |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons a student could lose immigration status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taking less than a full course load – Fall and Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Courses – Beyond the permitted number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unauthorized employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not following any other immigration regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why talk about Immigration Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lose the ability to issue immigration documents for students and scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution could lose the certification to enroll and retain international students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not have the ability to welcome visiting scholars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How IPS can help – Incoming

1. Immigration paperwork preparation
2. Pre-arrival information
3. On-campus orientation
4. Visa status maintenance and regulation compliance
5. Post-scholar visit program assessment
How IPS can help – Outgoing

1. Grant program identification

2. Application resources

3. Post-scholar visit program assessment
Action Items

- Explore the Fulbright Opportunities
- Work with IPS during application process
- Work with Deans for the sabbatical process
- Work with IPS for guidance with travel arrangements
- Assessment of the program with IPS

https://fulbrightscholars.org/
Group Discussion

1. How can you support the International Student Journey?

2. Discuss 1 or 2 ways to encourage other members on your team to enhance international student experience at MU

3. How do you see yourself as an individual contributing to the International Student Journey?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Tea Time</td>
<td>Thursday 1</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT Workshop</td>
<td>Friday 30</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Tea Time</td>
<td>Thursday 13</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millersville Parade</td>
<td>Saturday 22</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT Workshop</td>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Game Night</td>
<td>Friday 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: international@millersville.edu

*Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change.
THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?
Photo Credits

- Airplane - https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/06/24/5-ways-find-last-minute-flight-deals-online-and-phone/1543537001/
- Easter U.S. Map - https://ontheworldmap.com/usa/map-of-eastern-us.jpg