Staying in Status – F-1 Visa Regulations

Karen Marshall - International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach

International Student Orientation – Spring 2019
Questions About Your Visa?

Office of International Education and Development (OIED)

International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach (ISSSO)

Email: issso@appstate.edu
Phone: 828-262-2046

Plemmons Student Union Suite 321
Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Important: Check your official Appalachian University e-mail often!
How Do I Meet with an Advisor?

Come to Walk-in Hours:

- Tuesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm

OR

Go to international.appstate.edu

Click on International Students

Schedule an appointment with Karen (undergraduate) or Lindsay (graduate)
Our Role?

We work for Appalachian State University, **not** the Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Government

We are required to report if:

- You drop below full-time enrollment
- You work without authorization
- Your I-20 expires

We are here to help assist and advise you with all matters.
Your Important Immigration Documents

1. Form I-20
2. Visa
3. I-94 Number
# 1. Form I-20

**School Information**
- **School**: Appalachian State University
- **School Address**: Office of International Education & Global Citizen Services

**School Official to Contact Upon Arrival**
- Adan Julian
- **Date**: 03 September 2005

**Program of Study**
- **Level and Major**: Academic
- **Program End Date**: 07 August 2017

**Financial**
- **Tuition and Fees**: $23,976
- **Living Expenses**: $6,000
- **Books and Personal**: $2,976
- **Total**: $32,952

**Remarks**

**School Attestation**

**Student Attestation**

**ICE Form I-20 (5/8/2018)**

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**Appalachian State University**

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Travel Signature
You **can** stay in the US after the visa expiration date as long as your I-20 is current. You cannot **enter** the US if your visa is expired.
I-94

• A record of arrival and departure
• Assigned when you arrive
• Different each time you enter the U.S
• Used by some employers and government agencies
• Issued electronically unless you enter the U.S. by land or sea
Retrieving Your I-94 Number

Get Most Recent I-94

Get your most recent I-94 form to prove your legal visitor status in the United States

Enter Traveler Info

Enter Your Traveler Info

Note: The info returned may not reflect applications submitted to or benefits received by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

* First (Given) Name :

* Last (Family) Name/Surname :

* Birth Date :

  Day

  Month

  Year

* Passport Number :

* Passport Country of Issuance :

  -- Select --

Cancel

NEXT >
## Most Recent I-94

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<td>Most Recent Date of Entry</td>
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<td>Class of Admission</td>
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Your I-94 Number: 24416014440

Class of Admission: F1

Duration of Stay: D/S
What is SEVIS?

Allows Appalachian to notify immigration officials of:

- Student arrival to campus
- Enrollment each semester
- Transfer to another school
- Program completion
- Changes to your program of study
- Work authorization
- Change of address
Maintaining your F-1 Status

Failure to maintain valid F-1 status can result in the termination of your visa and jeopardize your ability to enter the United States in the future.

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to ensure that you maintain valid F-1 status. We are here to help if you have any questions.
Best Practices

- Maintain full-time enrollment
  - 12 credits for undergraduates, 9 for graduates
- Read your @appstate.edu e-mail every day.
- Do not work **off-campus** without authorization from International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach
- Maintain an accurate and up to date I-20
- Keep your local address up to date in AppalNet
- Communicate any changes to your academic program or course of study to International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach
• You can work on-campus for up to 20 hours a week.

• You can work more than 20 hours a week during academic breaks and vacations.

• F-2 (dependents of F-1 students) are not allowed to work on or off campus.

• Your paycheck must come from Appalachian State University or the University of North Carolina System to be considered on-campus employment.
Working on Campus

- Working on campus requires a US Social Security Number.

- In order to receive a Social Security Number you must take a letter from your employer and ISSSO to a Social Security Administration office along with your passport, I-94 number, and Form I-20.

- The closest Social Security Administration Office to Boone is located 31 miles away in Wilkesboro, NC. ISSSO will be arranging transportation to Wilkesboro at least once a semester. More information will be sent via email.
How do I get an on-campus job?

**STEP 1:** Search and apply for jobs at studentemployment.appstate.edu using Handshake

**STEP 2:** Interview with potential on-campus employers

**STEP 3:** Receive a job offer
I have an on-campus job offer. Now what?

**STEP 4:** Sign up for a trip to the Social Security Office

**STEP 5:** Contact Human Resources to set up a 1-hour appointment to complete paperwork

**STEP 6:** Attend the appointment at Human Resources and bring all completed documents and forms

Visit international.appstate.edu and click on “International Students” for a complete list of instructions.
Working Off - Campus

CPT (Curricular Practical Training)

Eligible **ONLY** after completion of two semesters of study (unless you are a graduate student!)

Work must be an integral part of your program of study

Requires authorization from your ISSSO

Requires a job offer from the employer

Requires approval from your academic advisor

OPT (Optional Practical Training)

Eligible **ONLY** after completion of two semesters of study

Designed for work after completion of studies

Work must be related to your field of study

Requires authorization from United States Customs and Immigration Services.
Go to international.appstate.edu

Click on International Students
News

- Questions and Answers about the most recent Executive Order - Department of Homeland Security
- Attend our Next Global Exchange - international food, dance, and music!

Get Involved

Whether you are an international student or scholar, U.S. student, faculty/staff member, or member of the local community, there are lots of ways for you to get involved. Read more.

Take a Tour

LAUNCH VIRTUAL TOUR

Prospective Students

Interested in becoming an international student at App?

Admitted Students

Learn how to acquire your U.S. student visa and prepare to join us at Appalachian.

Current Students

Do you have questions about visas, employment, graduation, taxes, or travel outside the U.S.?
Read about your F-1 employment opportunities and find links to apply for them with the ISSSO Portal.

You may also review the forms you need to apply for your Social Security Number here!
Traveling
Travel Inside the U.S.

Federal regulations require that you travel with your passport at all times. In addition to your passport, it is a good idea to travel with your I-20 if you are traveling outside of the general Boone area.
Travel Outside the U.S.

- The regulations state that you must have a travel signature on page 2 of your I-20 that was **signed within the last 6 months**.

- Travel with an up to date I-20. **An up to date I-20 is one which reflects your current major, degree level and program start and end dates.**

- How do I get a valid travel signature? Schedule an appointment!
Travel **Outside** the U.S.

In addition to traveling with an up to date I-20 and travel signature, you should make sure that you have:

- A passport that is valid for at least 6 months past the date you plan to return to the U.S.
- An F-1 visa that is valid when you return to the U.S.
- A copy of your Appalachian Admit Letter
Falling Out of Status

Termination of visa status and ability to continue education in the U.S.

Must depart the U.S. immediately

Loss of tuition and fees

Current political environment and policies hold serious implications for any violation of status
Let’s Review!
Review

I have a question about my F-1 visa. The best person to ask is:

A. My friend
B. My roommate
C. The staff of International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach
D. My professor
Correct!

That’s correct. Even though your friends, roommate, or your professor might be wonderful and intelligent people, they are not the people to ask for assistance. If you need advice or help with your student visa you should contact International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach.
I know that International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach will need to contact me with very important information that will impact my visa status and my ability to remain in the U.S. legally. I will receive communication from via:

A. My home university’s email account
B. My cell phone
C. My official @appstate.edu email account
D. Morse code in my window
Correct!

That’s correct. Your @appstate.edu email address is the primary form of communication we will use to communicate with you.

It is essential that you check your email daily.
As an undergraduate, I’m enrolled in 12 credits. I want to drop a class. I should:

A. Drop it if my professor says it’s okay
B. Make an appointment with International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach before I do anything
C. Just drop the class as quickly as possible
D. Stay enrolled but not attend class
That is correct! Failure to maintain enrollment in a full-course of study (12 credits for undergraduate and 9 credits for graduate students) is a violation of your F-1 status and something we are required to report.

If you are having emotional, psychological or academic difficulties you might be eligible for a reduced course load approval. See the International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach if you are having difficulty.
Review

My friend runs a business in Banner Elk and has offered me a job. I should:

A. Tell her I can start working tomorrow

B. Start working immediately and sort it out later

C. Begin employment only after I receive written authorization from International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach

D. Start my own export and import business from my residence hall
That is correct! Engaging in employment off-campus is a violation of your F-1 visa status and has serious consequences. Never work off campus without authorization from International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach.
My aunt owns a restaurant in Boone. She wants me to help her. She won’t pay me money but I’ll get free food and a place to live if I help her a few days a week. I should:

A. Go for it! Free food and a place to live!

B. Yeah, why not? She’s not actually giving me money and she is family after all

C. Tell her that I can’t work in exchange for food and housing

D. Ask her to do my laundry too
Correct!

That’s right! Receiving **ANY** compensation for work that you do is considered employment and is a violation of your F-1 status. It doesn’t matter if you are being paid money or not.

You cannot work off-campus without first receiving written authorization from International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach.
I’m going to visit a friend in Canada during a break but I noticed that my I-20 hasn’t been signed by anyone for over 6 months. What should I do?

A. Go to Canada without my I-20

B. Go to Canada with my I-20 without a signature

C. Contact the International Student and Scholar Services to get a travel signature

D. Go to the Canadian border and find out
That is correct! When you travel outside of the US you need an I-20 signed within the last 6 months. It is also important that your passport is valid for at least 6 months into the future from the point you arrive and that your visa is valid. It’s a good idea to travel with your Appalachian admit letter too!
Questions?

 вопрісы?

 Піта́ньа?

 คำถาม?

 الأسئلة؟

 ปัญหาไหม?

 PREGUNTAS?