Immigration 101:
Pre-Arrival

Prepared by OISS
Fall 2021 INSO 5/26/2021
AGENDA
What to Expect From Us

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Who We Are

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Immigration Status:

Immigration status is the legal category under which a nonimmigrant is admitted to the U.S. Examples of those categories include F-1/F-2 and J-1/J-2 categories.

A status is granted after you are inspected at a port of entry & lawfully admitted to the U.S. The status gives you certain rights & controls the activities you may lawfully engage in while in the U.S.

The status is based on regulations and does not have anything to do with the expiration date on the visa.
Establishing Status:

Students who established or will establish status:
→ Travel to the U.S. and admitted with MSU I-20/DS-2019
→ Approved change of status effective on or prior to Fall 2021 start
→ Students should arrive by September 1, 2021 (start of classes) or receive approval of change of status before Fall 2021
→ Enrolled full-time and at least one in-person or hybrid course
→ Complete Immigration Check-in

Students who will NOT establish status:
→ Will not travel to the U.S. for the Fall 2021 semester
→ Must defer I-20/DS-2019 to semester of planned arrival
→ No immigration requirements
1. Admissions Deferral

Student will not begin classes in Fall Semester 2021

Student will remain outside the US

Admission to MSU will begin Spring 2022

Contact your admissions counselor if this is the option you are taking: https://admissions.msu.edu/contact-us/default.aspx

2. Deferred Arrival

Student will begin classes for Fall Semester 2021 but will remain outside the US

Student does not have to follow full-time enrollment rules

Student can have all online courses

Inform OISS that you will not arrive for Fall 2021; your I20 start date will be updated
3. Fall Semester in the US

Student must enter the US on or before September 1 and complete immigration check-in with OISS

Utilize OISS memo outlining our academic program modality for visa interviews and US entry [https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/files/1016/1600/3468/Fall_2021_travel_memo.pdf](https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/files/1016/1600/3468/Fall_2021_travel_memo.pdf)

Student must be full-time enrolled based on academic level

Student must have at least 1 hybrid or in-person course
Important Travel Information

Certain Students May be Impacted by Travel Restrictions:

→ Travelers from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, the Schengen Area, UK, Ireland, and India are currently impacted by travel restrictions related to COVID-19

→ National Interest Exemptions (NIE) for certain travelers from these locations including F-1 students

→ NIE begins August 1, 2021 or later

→ J-1 students and scholars are NOT included in the NIE.

Students arriving prior to August 16:

→ Students are covered by Blue Care Network Health Insurance effective August 16

→ Early arrival coverage is available for a low cost-please see OISS website
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS & TERMINOLOGY

I-901 Fee
I-20 & DS-2019
Visa Stamp
I-94
I-20/DS-2019
- Outlines student and academic program information
- Must be valid for the entire time a student is in the US

Visa Stamp
- Physical visa that is placed in your passport
- Must be valid at time of entry to US
- Students can stay in US after visa expires

I-94 Record
- Records your entry into the US.
- Check this every time you enter the US to ensure they have classified you in the correct status

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS OVERVIEW
I-901 SEVIS FEE

- Required for each new SEVIS ID
- Certain students may be eligible for transfer of their SEVIS fee
ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS:
Fall Semester in the US

Credit Requirements
Reduced Course Load
Online Course Policy
Fall Semester in the US: Required Credits

English Language Center: 12 credits

Undergraduates: 12 credits

Masters: 9 credits, 6 credits with assistantship

Doctoral: 6 credits, 3 credits with assistantship, 1 credit when ABD status reached
Students studying in the US may apply for a reduced course load from OISSL under certain circumstances:

- Academic (1st semester only)
- Medical
- Final Semester (graduating semester)
- Dual Enrollment (enrolling at another institution at the same time)

Approval from OISSL must be given prior to student dropping below full-time enrollment.
ONLINE COURSE POLICY:
COVID-19

Regulations regarding online courses for international students have been modified due to COVID-19.

▪ For FALL SEMESTER 2021 new and transfer international students must have at least 1 in-person or hybrid class.

▪ All other courses may be online.
ONLINE COURSE POLICY:
Standard Regulation

Only ONE online course or distance learning course per semester may count toward the number of credit hours required for full-time enrollment.
NEXT STEPS

I-20 Verification
Overview of next steps
Updating Your Account
Complete the I-20 Verification E-Form

1. All F-1 students with 'initial' I-20 should complete the I-20 verification e-form
2. The I-20 Verification is accessible in a link that is emailed to your msu.edu account
3. Report any changes to arrival plans using this request; submission of this request prompts OISS to take an action to update I-20 start date
Next Steps:

**FALL 2021 AT MSU:**
- Enroll in full-time credit amount (12 credits undergrad)
- Enroll in at least 1 in-person/hybrid course
- Secure visa and pay I-901 fee
- Complete I-20 verification eForm
- Complete NSO/INSO Orientation modules & webinars

**Visas**
Use FS21 I-20 to apply for visa if you have not already secured one.
Next Steps:

**DEFERRED ARRIVAL:**
→ Enroll in as many online classes as you wish for Fall
→ Notify your MSU Admissions Counselor if you are participating in ‘Study Away at Home’ program
→ Receive updated I-20 & pay SEVIS fee

**Visas**
Use FS21 I-20 to apply for visa up until OISS creates the new I-20. At that point, you will need to wait until 120 days prior to start date of new I-20 for application.
Next Steps:

**ADMISSION DEFERRAL:**
→ No MSU enrollment for Fall 2021
→ Notify your MSU Admissions Counselor
→ Update Your Account
→ Receive updated I-20 & pay SEVIS fee

**Visas**
Use current I-20 to apply for visa up until OISS creates the new I-20. At that point, you will need to wait until 120 days prior to start date of new I-20 for application.
Your Account Update

If you are DEFERRING ADMISSION, log in and update YOUR ACCOUNT.

This will alert MSU Admissions of your plans for Fall 2021.
Advising Appointments

Virtual advising is available via Zoom

Request an appointment with your assigned OISS adviser: https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/about/oiss-advising-team/
Live Chat

If you have quick questions, you can chat live with an advisor from 1pm-3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

You can access live chat using the links on the OISS homepage: [https://oiss.msu.edu/](https://oiss.msu.edu/)
Keep OISS Informed

- Updates to your I-20/DS-2019 including biographical information, program of study updates, financials, and authorizations

- Passport updates
Go Green! Go White!
Coming Up

Webinars

- **INSO Academic Transition & Student Success**  
  June 10, 8:00 Eastern Time

- **NSO Advising Webinar**  
  May 26, 19:30 Eastern Time

- **NSO Housing & Dining Webinar**  
  June 2 and 19:30 Eastern Time

INSO Outreach

- **Welcome Weekly**  
  INSO updates sent to your MSU account every Wednesday

- **INSO D2L**  
  Launches May 26 
  Asynchronous orientation modules