New International Student Orientation
Welcome!

Please complete your pre-test survey NOW (in your bags)

TURN it in to an OIP staff member WHEN you finish
Why Do I Need This Info?

- Understanding your responsibilities as F visa holder
- Understanding your benefits as F visa holder
- Lawful stay in the U.S.
Voting

A

B

C

D
Voting Rules

1) Everyone votes

2) Presenter counts down and says vote

4) The vote should be said loud

TEST VOTE COMING UP.........
Immigration documents
Immigration Documents

- SEVIS I-20 (F visa) or DS-2019 (J visa)
- I-94 card or printout of I-94
- Passport
- Entry visa inside passport
SEVIS I-20 for Students with an F-1 Visa
DS-2019 for Students with a J Visa
READY TO VOTE?
Which of the following is FALSE?

A. Your I-20 shows your funding source and cost for the duration of your studies.

B. You can change information on your I-20 once you have entered the US.

C. Your I-20 shows how long you can stay in the US.

D. An I-20 is produced from a regular printer and computer.
Which of the following is FALSE?

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C. Your I-20 shows how long you can stay in the US.

D. An I-20 is produced on a regular printer and computer.
I-94 card #1: entry by land (bridge)
I-94 card #2: entry by air or sea

i94.cbp.dhs.gov
Type in info to match your US entry visa
Purpose of I-94

- U.S. arrival & departure record
- Shows your classification (F-1, F-3, or J-1)
- Usually valid for “D/S” – Check yours
  - F-3 may be exception
- Shows you arrived legally and are here legally
- *Keep it safe in your passport*
- You do not need to update it, *except for F-3*
READY TO VOTE?
What does D/S mean?

A. Doctoral Student  
B. Duration of Status  
C. Degree Seeking  
D. Detention is Suspended
What does D/S mean?

A. Doctoral Student
B. Duration of Status
C. Degree Seeking
D. Detention is Suspended
Duration of Status?

- Time authorized to stay based on SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019
- If I-20 or DS-2019 end date is updated, authorized length of stay is automatically updated
- After completion of study, **allows a grace period of sixty days** (F) or **thirty days** (J)
New I-94 Cards

- **“D/S” I-94**: Return card when traveling abroad, get new card when re-entering
  - Travel to Mexico: keep card in passport during trip of less than 30 days

- **Non-D/S I-94**: (usually F-3 part-time border commuters) change by date printed on I-94
Entry Visa

This is a sample MRV and is not valid for travel.
Difference between F-1, F-3 and J-1

- **F-1**: Full time student living in the US
  - Most common type

- **F-3**: Part or full time student NOT living in US
  - Border commuter

- **J-1**: Exchange Visitor student
  - Government scholarship
F-1 Visa

- Full course load required (12 credits, UG, 9 credits GR)
- Lives in the U.S.
- Can have dependents on F-2 visa
- Can work on campus as soon as studies begin (authorization needed)
- Must register vehicle in Texas and obtain the Texas drivers license

I-20 issued for duration of studies
F-3 Visa: Border Commuters (ONLY MEXICAN STUDENTS)

**Full time Border Commuter**

- I-20 issued for the length of study
- Full course of study required
- Lives in Mexico
- Does not have dependents on F-2 visa
- Must wait one year to work (prior authorization)
- Signs I-20 once a year
- Vehicle and drivers license can be from Mexico

**Part time Border Commuter**

- I-20 issued for one semester
- Can study full time or part time
- Live in Mexico
- Does not have dependents on F-2 visa
- Must wait one year to work (prior authorization)
- **Renews** I-20 every semester
- Obtains a **new** I-94 with every I-20
- Vehicle and drivers license can be from Mexico
READY TO VOTE?
Which is true about the visa?

A. Only issued outside the U.S.
B. Allows you to enter the U.S.
C. Does not allow you to stay in the U.S.
D. All are true
Which is true about the visa?

A. Only issued outside the U.S.
B. Allows you to enter the U.S.
C. Does not allow you to stay in the U.S.
D. All are true
READY TO VOTE?
Which is false about the passport?

A. The passport should NOT be carried on you every day while you are staying in the U.S.
B. You may renew your passport inside the U.S.
C. You should always keep the passport valid at least six months into the future.
D. In some cases your passport can be used as a driver’s license.
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Immigration status
What is My “Status”? 

• Legal permission to be in the U.S.

• “In status” means you are following the rules and your SEVIS record is active 😊

• “Out of status” means that an immigration violation has occurred and your SEVIS record is terminated 😞
Stay “In Status”

- Make normal academic progress toward your degree
- Check your UTEP e-mail account for all school-related information, including messages from OIP
- If you have questions or problems, please contact us! It is better to ask right away!
Stay “In Status”

• Your status is your own responsibility

• OIP is here to help!

• Be proactive
Responsibilities
Once you enter the U.S. as a student, you have 15 days by law to report to our office.

Reporting involves completing an “Arrival Form” and submitting copies of:

• Passport
• Visa
• I-94
Full time Enrollment

- Undergraduate students: 12 hours per semester
- Graduate students: 9 hours per semester
- Only 1 online course (3 credits) per semester will count toward full-time enrollment
- Generally: Fall and Spring semesters are required
Less than Full-time enrollment?

- Part time F-3s: OK
- F-1 and J-1: Ask OIP for approval of limited circumstances
  - Medical condition
  - Specific types of academic difficulties
  - Final semester of study
  - Concurrent enrollment
Reporting Changes

- Report any change of residential address in Goldmine within 10 days of the change
- Report any planned or unplanned semester absence or termination of study
I-20 / DS-2019 Signatures

• Travel signature
  – Valid for one year (look on page three)
• Concurrent enrollment
  – Valid for one semester
• On-campus employment
  – When starting on-campus job
• Extend your I-20 on time if needed
PASE Program
(Mexican students only)

- Valid for the academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Must recertify every year (April – September)
  - Internet survey
- Not all students will automatically recertify online.
PASE Program
(Mexicans students only)

• Additional Information may be required.
  • Change in income
  • Important events in life (marriage, death, etc.)
  • Turning 24 years of age
• Participation in PASE may be lost
  • Academic suspension. You must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA
  • Becoming a permanent resident in the U.S.
READY TO VOTE?
What does NOT need to happen when you are a new student?

A. Fill out the “Arrival Check-in form” with your current address and emergency contact for OIP
B. Submit copies of your immigration documents to OIP
C. Get a vaccination for tuberculosis
D. OIP has to activate your record in the SEVIS database
What does NOT need to happen when you are a new student?

A. Fill out the blue “Arrival Check-in form” with your current address and emergency contact for OIP

B. You have to submit photocopies of your immigration documents to OIP

C. You must get a vaccination for tuberculosis

D. OIP has to activate your record in the SEVIS database
Who is IN STATUS?

A. Undergrad F-1 student who has 12 credits withdraws from one class.
B. Undergrad student who takes the Fall semester off without telling OIP.
C. Undergrad who takes 3 credits at UTEP and 9 credits at El Paso Community College.
D. Graduate student who only needs three credits to finish her degree.
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C. Undergrad who takes 3 credits at UTEP and 9 credits at El Paso Community College.

D. Graduate student who only needs three credits to finish her degree.
Which is FALSE about I-20 extension?

A. You can get one if you experience unexpected delay in your completion of your degree and need more time
B. You must apply for and receive extension by OIP before the expiration date of your I-20
C. Academic suspension or probation are not valid reasons to have an extension
D. You must go home right away to renew your entry visa
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Employment
On-Campus Employment

- Must serve UTEP on campus
- Up to 19 hours a week during the school year
  - 20 hours a week for graduate assistantships
- May be full-time during school breaks and during most summers

- F-3 students not eligible for on-campus employment (only with CPT)
Off-Campus Employment

• Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  – F students

• Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  – F students

Workshops are available to find out more about these opportunities.
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- To gain practical experience in field of study
- Usually an internship, but other jobs permitted
- Must be related to major
- Need job offer to apply
- Available after one academic year (including F-3s)
- While you are working towards your degree
- Attend CPT workshop first. Review our website.
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- To gain more experience in field of study
- Must be related to major
- For employment after graduation
- Generally granted for the year after graduation
- 12 months in general
- Must pay a fee to apply ($380)
- Must apply before end of program
- Attend workshop and review website.
Off-Campus Employment

- Academic Training (AT)
  - J students

- 18 months total or equal to study length
- 36 months maximum at Doctorate level
Academic Training

• Pre-completion: during studies
• Post-completion: after completing studies

– Part-time: 20 hrs per week
– Full-time: 21 or more hrs per week (limit 2 semesters)

Speak to an advisor to find out more about these opportunities.
READY TO VOTE?
What is the work authorization an F visa holder can request to work off campus after 1 year of status?

A. CPT  
B. OPT  
C. Academic Training  
D. None
What is the work authorization an F visa holder can request to work off campus after 1 year of status?

A. CPT
B. OPT
C. Academic Training
D. None
The Essentials to Get You Started

Nuts and Bolts
To work in the U.S. you need to have a social security number (SSN).

SSN is only granted for employment purposes.
How to get a Social Security Card
Social Security Card

- A job offer letter
- Letter from Office of International Programs
- Authorization on the 3rd page of your I-20
- Apply for Social Security card (1-2 weeks)
  - Complete Form SS-5 (available online)
  - Office is located downtown at 600 Texas Avenue
  - Monday-Friday: 9am to 4pm
  - Phone number: 1-866-964-6229 (local), 1-800-772-1213 (national),

http://www.ssa.gov/
Social Security Rules

- 2 day / 10 day rule
- Can request only 30 days before
- Present card at HR office
• On campus: must request signature on I-20 periodically (usually about 1 time per year)

• May not work off campus without proper authorization
F-3 Visa & Social Security Number

• F-3 visa holders may not work on or off campus until they have been in status for 1 academic year

• Must qualify for Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

• Then apply for SSN
Never work without authorization.

It is considered a federal crime and is punishable by law.
READY TO VOTE?
How does the 2 day/10 day rule affect your employment eligibility?

A. I must wait 12 days after I enter the U.S. to start working.
B. My status can not be confirmed by the SSA and my number/card cannot be issued.
C. It does not affect me at all.
D. My employer won’t be able to find me in their database.
How does the 2 day/10 day rule affect your employment eligibility?

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Driver’s License

• You MUST have a valid driver’s license
• Driving a privilege, not a right
• Texas driver’s license will be marked “TEMPORARY VISITOR” and needs to be renewed every year
Applying for a Driver’s License

• You must have 2 forms of ID
• DL-13 form (if you have no SSN)
• Will ask for I-20 (needs to be at least for 3 months)
• Fill out form DL-14A
• Fee is $25 and will be valid for one year at a time
Driver’s License Tests

• Written test
• Driving test
• If within the ages of 18-24, you must attend a 6 hour course
• You cannot drive a U.S. automobile on a foreign license for more than 6 months.
• For more information see the handout in your bags
Texas ID Card

- Alternate type of identification
- Helpful for local use and every day situations
- You must have 2 forms of ID
- Will ask for I-20
- Fill out form
- Fee is $25 and is valid for six years
- For more information visit see the handout in your bags
Medical Insurance

• Required for international students and scholars
• UTEP offers student policy
• UTEP will bill you
• About $829+ per semester
• If you have your own insurance, you have until Census Day to request a waiver

Census day is September 9, 2015

Mexican F-1 / F-3 students: Currently insurance is optional
Insurance Waiver Requirements

1. Coverage under the UT System employee health plan
   - Available for benefit eligible TA/RAs (20 work hrs/week) plus supplemental evacuation and repatriation benefits

-OR-
Insurance Waiver Requirements

2. Comparable coverage to the policy provided by UTEP:

- Unlimited benefit for each illness or injury
- Deductible of $500 or less per person per year
- $50,000 or more for medical evacuation
- $50,000 or more for repatriation of remains
Waiver Process

1. Register for classes
2. Visit: utep.myahpcare.com/waiver
3. Scroll down to the link
   a. You can watch a tutorial on how to submit the waiver or print the reference card to guide you
   b. You will be charged every term you enroll. You must complete the waiver process EVERY SEMESTER.

You will need to upload documentation with:
   Dates of coverage
   Names of those covered
   Amounts of coverage

Insurance documents must be in English
How Does Insurance Work in the U.S.?

- Company has contract / agreement with doctors
- Co-pays – percentage paid by you
- Deductibles – amount you pay for specific types of procedures, separate from copay
- UTEP student insurance plan covers 80% of medical costs; remaining 20% paid by you
Cultural Adjustment
Adapting to a new culture and finding your way!
The Cultural Iceberg

(Adapted from L. Robert Kohls’ “Cultural Iceberg”)

Concept of time, body language, eye contact, notions of modesty, concept of “self”, concept of “fairness”, social etiquette rules, etc.
Stages of Cultural Adjustment

Honey Moon Stage

Hostility Stage

Humor Stage

Home Stage
Major U.S. Values

- Direct and assertive
- Equality
- Individuality
- Privacy
- Informality
- Time*
- Achievement (Work Hard/Play Hard)
Cultural Adjustment Tips

• Establish new support systems
• Take care of yourself physically and mentally
• Open minded, flexible, and adaptable
• Express your feelings
• Develop a routine
• Keep a journal
• Learn the host country language
  • speak without fear
• Participation is the key
  • Join clubs and organizations
JOIN US FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COOKOUT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
STUDENT REC CENTER
5 PM TO 8 PM
FEATURING:
FOOD ★ MUSIC
POOL ★ GAMES
LINE DANCING
3450 SUN BOWL DR.
Welcome!

Office of International Programs

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