Thank you for coming to International Student Orientation!
HOW TO SUCCEED AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES,
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
SUITE 211, SAVANT BUILDING
404-894-7475
INFO@OIE.GATECH.EDU
WWW.OIE.GATECH.EDU
• Shares information on available resources and advocates on behalf of international students
• Provides guidance and support with visa and immigration questions
• Supports practical training opportunities including options before and after graduation
• Organizes events for networking, making new friends, and enhancing professional skills

Contact Us:
OIE Online Advising
Make an appointment via OIE website:
https://oie.gatech.edu/isss_advising
EXPECTATIONS

ADVISOR’S ROLE

• Knowledgeable about immigration regulations and GT policy
• Communicate effectively and in a timely manner
• Process immigration benefit requests and updates

STUDENT’S ROLE

• Take responsibility for your academic and immigration status
• Research and utilize OIE and GT resources (website, e-forms, handouts) to prepare before seeing an advisor
• Communicate effectively and in a timely manner (major changes to your academic or immigration status)
HOW TO SUCCEED AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Immigration Documents
- Enrollment
- Updates to status
- Practical Training/ On-Campus Employment
- Social Security Number
- International Travel
- Transfers & Grace Period
- Other Things to Consider
KNOW YOUR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

- Student Visa
- J-1 DS-2019
- United States Passport
- United Kingdom Passport
- United Kingdom Visa
- Inscription: "Student"
PASSPORT: PROOF OF IDENTITY

- Passport should be renewed 6 months prior to expiration
- Can be renewed in the United States
- Passport related questions (lost passport, incorrect passport information, passport renewal, etc.) should be asked to your home country’s embassy or consulate
DS-2019 CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY J-1 VISA

SEVIS ID

Program Dates

212 (e) Two Year Home Residency Decision

ARO Travel Authorization
F-1 VISA: ENTRY PERMIT

- Analogy: Key to enter the U.S.
- Can Expire while Inside the U.S.
- Renewal required for re-entry after international travel
- Must apply for renewal outside the U.S.

- Transfer Students:
  - Initial school will be listed – OK
  - GT will be added after renewal

F1 or J1
Access I-94 at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov

The following information is required to retrieve your Admission (I-94) number. Enter the information as it appears on the travel documents you used to enter the United States.

- Name
- Birth Date
- Passport Number
- Country
- Most Recent Date of Entry
- Class of Admission

You will need to print your I-94 form in order to show it at the Social Security Office, Department of Driver Services, or apply for certain immigration benefits, etc.
IStart is a software application used to:

- Maintain an electronic file for each student
- Update student records in SEVIS, the database that manages all international students in the United States
- Efficiently manage requests by international students, GT faculty, and GT administration
Address in iStart

- Personal information update e-form
- Within 10 days of change

I-20 changes

- Program Extension
- Change of Major
- Change of Degree Level
- Financial Updates
- Adding dependents
ENROLLMENT

• F-1 students studying inside the U.S.: 12 credit hour registration with no more than 3 credit hours of online coursework counted toward the full-time requirement

• For Fall 2020, SEVP has temporarily waived the 3 credits of online coursework rule

• Undergraduate students are not able to utilize audit hours to count towards their full-time enrollment of 12 credits. Graduate students can register for up to 3 audit hours as part of their 12 hour required minimum.

• "Normal Progress" Towards Completion of Studies

• Vacation Semester – Summer
REduced Course Load

Must be Authorized by OIE (Don’t drop below 12 credits until approved)

Reasons:

• Graduation Semester
• Medical Reasons
• Academic Difficulties in 1st semester – case by case basis
ACADEMIC SUCCESS REQUIRES...

- Engagement in class
- Frequent study
- Time management
- Maintaining student visa status
- Complying with the student code of conduct
• On-Campus Employment is Permitted
• Off-Campus Employment is Not Permitted
ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

• Eligible for 20 hours or less of on-campus work during required academic terms (fall and spring).
• May work additional hours during summer and winter break periods.
• Not eligible to continue on-campus employment after graduation without OPT.
PRACTICAL TRAINING/ACADEMIC TRAINING

F-1 Student Visa Holders

Practical Training is a benefit of the F-1 student visa status. Two types exist:

• Curricular Practical Training
• Optional Practical Training
• Eligible after one year of full-time academic study at GT

J-1 Student Visa Holders

Academic Training is a benefit of the J-1 student visa status. Two types exist:

• Academic Training during degree program
• Academic Training after degree program
• Eligible immediately after joining GT

Must receive authorization from OIE prior to engaging in any activities in a paid or non-paid status for practical training benefits or Academic Training.
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

- Anyone employed in the United States must have a Social Security Number
- iStart E-form request – Found under SSN and Taxes- **SSA Assistance Request** for appointments in the Atlanta area
- Submit application in person to local Social Security Administration Office
- Documents to bring along:
  - Passport
  - I-94 print out
  - Current I-20/DS-2019
  - Letter of employment on letterhead
  - OIE support letter
- Processing time 4-6 weeks, be sure to request your application receipt
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Required Documents for Reentry into the U.S

- Travel Signature on I-20/DS-2019 (valid for 1 year)
- Valid F-1 or J-1 Visa
- Passport Valid at least 6 Months into the Future

*Some international travel may be eligible for Automatic Visa Revalidation, see Department of State for more info.

Request Travel Signature at least 2 weeks prior to travel istart.gatech.edu
Options After Tech for F-1 Student Via Holders, 60 Day Grace Period

1. Transfer
2. Change Degree Level
3. Apply for Work Authorization (OPT)
4. Change Status
5. Depart the U.S.
Before Graduation:

- You must request Academic Training prior to the program end date (graduation date) on your DS-2019.
- A Job offer in your field of study is required to request Academic Training.
- The Academic Training must begin within 30 days of your program end date.

After Graduation:

- J-1 Visa Holders are eligible to remain inside the U.S. for a 30 day grace period after the program end date on the DS-2019.
- During this time, J-1 visa holders are ineligible to work or study, but are free to travel domestically within the U.S.
- If you depart the U.S. during the grace period, you will need a different visa or ESTA approval to re-enter the U.S.
OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- **Taxes**
- **Health Insurance**
- **Federal and State Laws**
- **Scams/Identity Theft**
- **Tobacco & Smoke Free Campus**
- **Academic Integrity Policy**
Enroll for 12 credit hours by Friday, August 21st – 4:00PM

Choose classes carefully. You cannot enroll in fewer than 12 credits, if studying inside the U.S.

GT Email: Check it! It is official method of communication.

Bursar’s bill must be settled by Monday, August 24th – 4:00PM: bursar.gatech.edu/payopt.php.
Website: https://oie.gatech.edu/

Online/Virtual Advising

- Appointments
- https://oie.gatech.edu/isss_advising

Email: info@oie.gatech.edu

Savant Building
Second Floor
631 Cherry Street
UPCOMING OIE EVENTS!

International Night at Tech Rec (Located in the Student Center)
OIE has rented out the entire Tech Rec on **Monday, January 27th from 5PM to 7PM**! Bowling, billiards, video games, and air hockey will be free to all students in attendance. This event is a great way for new students to meet friends from both the U.S. and abroad.

Culture Fest
An opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. Series of events all over campus this **March 30th – April 3rd**!

Mid Semester Meal
This mid semester event will give you an opportunity to reflect on your Georgia Tech experience thus far! Food, fun activities, and an opportunity to hang out with your fellow international students.
**Date - Will happen sometime in March.**

Follow us for info on more events!  
[gt_isss](https://instagram.com/gt_isss)
STAY CONNECTED, GET INVOLVED

**Get Involved**

- OIE Programs
- GT International Ambassadors
- Orgsync.com (student orgs)
- AMIS (amis-inc.org)

**Stay Connected**

- iBuzz Newsletter
- @GT_ISSS
- gt_isss
- oie.gatech.edu
We hope you have an enjoyable and successful experience at the Georgia Institute of Technology!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES,
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Office of International Education
oie.gatech.edu