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

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HOW TO SUCCEED AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

• Who is ISSS?
• Immigration Documents
• Enrollment
• Updates to status
• Practical Training/ On-Campus Employment
• Social Security Number
• International Travel
• Transfers & Grace Period
• Other Things to Consider
ISSS TEAM

- 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
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)
KNOW YOUR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

- J-1 DS-2019
- Passport
- Visa
- F-1

Ge Georgia Tech
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
FORM I-20: CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR F-1 VISA

SEVIS ID: N0004705512

Class of Admission:
F-1

Description of Other Costs, School Funding, and Funds from Other Sources, if specified:

Student's name pre-prints on form

Remarks: Space for comments

Number of dependents

Sections expand as needed to display information

DSO's name does NOT pre-print on form
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
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
• F-1 student visa holders are required by federal regulations to enroll full-time each term. Full-time enrollment at Georgia Tech is 12 credit hours.
  • 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

• Unless the Summer semester is your first or last term inside the U.S., F-1 student visa holders are not required to enroll full-time during the summer as it is considered a vacation period.
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
• Wellness and self-care: Resources at https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/fillyourcup
• 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. Please verify with HR the limit during breaks.

• 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

F-1 and J-1 student visa holders must receive authorization from OIE before 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 (SSA) Office
- Documents to take to your appointment with SSA along:
  - Passport
  - I-94 print out
  - Current I-20/DS-2019
  - Letter of employment on letterhead
  - If you work on GT’s campus, you must also take with you the OIE on-campus employment support letter
- Processing time for a Social Security Number can be anywhere from 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, January 22\(^{nd}\), 2021 – 4:00PM**

Choose classes carefully. If this is your first semester in the U.S. with GT, you must ensure that not all of your classes are online.

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

Bursar’s bill must be settled by **Monday, January 25\(^{th}\) - 4:00PM**: [http://bursar.gatech.edu/](http://bursar.gatech.edu/).
OIE is continuing to operate remotely as we have since March 2020. You can contact us via email, by appointment, or via drop-in Advising services.

**Website:** [https://oie.gatech.edu/](https://oie.gatech.edu/)

**Virtual Advising:**
[https://oie.gatech.edu/issss_advising](https://oie.gatech.edu/issss_advising)

- **Appointments**
- **Drop-in advising**

**Email:** info@oie.gatech.edu
UPCOMING OIE VIRTUAL EVENTS!

Orientation homepage (including links to above events): https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/welcome-series

Follow us for info on more events! Instagram: gt_isss
Get Involved

OIE Programs

GT International Ambassadors

Center for Student Engagement (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!

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