Immigration Essentials for F-1 and J-1 Students
International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

- Location: Center for Community 3rd floor, Room S355
- Walk-in Advising:
  - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 am – 3 pm
  - Wednesday, 12:30 pm – 3 pm
- Document Pickup/Drop off:
  - Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4:30 pm
- Telephone: 303.492.8057
- Email: isss@colorado.edu
- Website: www.colorado.edu/isss
Meet the ISSS Team

Not Pictured: Paige, Carolyn, Hannah, George
Report to ISSS

Reporting is a 2-step process:

- Immigration Reporting Form (IRF)
  Immigration Check-In Form (through DocuSign)

- Immigration Essentials
  for F-1 & J-1 Students Session
Immigration Rules

KNOW THE RULES
so you can
FOLLOW THE RULES!

It is *your* responsibility to know the rules!
(but ISSS is here to help!)
Passport

Key Information about your passport:

- Your passport should always be valid for 6 months into the future.
  - Federal regulations suggest a passport end date at least 6 months after your program end date.
  - Federal guidance suggests having a passport end date at least 6 months from your date of entry.
- Your passport cannot expire while you are in the U.S.
- Renew your passport through your embassy or your consular office in the United States.
Maintain Your Records

You should keep all copies of your immigration documents forever.

► NEVER THROW YOUR DOCUMENTS AWAY!

ISSS will keep records of your documents for 3 years after you graduate.

► These are only copies – you have the original documents!
Port of Entry Passport Stamp

Date of Entry:
Your date of entry will be stamped.

Status:
Your status should be either: F-1 or J-1.

Expiration of Status:
D/S (stands for duration of status)
I-20 (F1) or DS-2019 (J1)

► This document is evidence of your immigration status as a student in the United States
► You need it for entry to the U.S.
  ► Must be active in order for you to remain in the U.S.
  ► Remains active by you maintaining your F-1 or J-1 status
► Keep every I-20/DS-2019 that you ever receive!
► Make sure your I-20/DS-2019 is accurate at all times.
► The expiration date depends on when you complete your course of study.
Entry Visa

Key information about your visa:

► Your visa is an entry document. You need your valid visa to enter a port of entry in the U.S.

► It is allowed to expire while you are in the U.S.
  ► An expired visa cannot be used to re-enter the US—you must get a new one.
  ► Duration of Status (D/S) ≠ Visa End Date. These will likely be different!

► You cannot renew a visa inside the U.S.

► Your visa can be revoked (invalidated)!
I-94 Admissions Record

Establishes status in the U.S. AND

Records your arrival and departure

Review your I-94 after every entry to the U.S. to ensure your information is correct.
Maintaining Legal Status

Attend the school your are authorized to attend.

Talk to ISSS if you want to attend a different school:

- Concurrent Enrollment
- Transfer
Maintaining Legal Status

Update your local Address

- Enter your **local** Colorado address in Buff Portal
- Update your address within **10 days** of moving.
- A P.O. Box (Post Office Box) is not acceptable, that is a mailing address only.
- Your **home** address should ALWAYS be your address in your home country.

**Updating Your Address in Buff Portal** Instructions
Maintaining Legal Status

Maintain **full-time** course enrollment

- **Undergraduates**: 12 credit hours each semester.
- **Graduates**: Usually 5 credit hours, depends on your graduate status.
- For Summer 2020 you must be enrolled in 6 credits (Undergrads) or 3 credits (Grads)

What counts toward those credits?

- **Online courses**: *only 3 credits* of distance learning will count toward your full-time requirement.
- **Courses taken for no credit**: **DO NOT** count toward your full-time requirement (e.g. audit classes).
- **Courses taken as pass/fail**: **DO** count toward your full-time requirement.
Drop Advising Hold

- Every fall and spring semester a hold will be placed on all F-1 and J-1 records.
  - It prevents you from dropping below a full-time course of study without prior authorization from ISSS.
  - It does not affect your ability to enroll in future semesters, only to drop for the current one.
- Visit ISSS and speak with your academic advisor if you plan to drop a class.
Grace Period (Legal Presence after Graduation)

- Grace period
  - J-1 visa holders: 30 days
  - F-1 visa holders: 60 days

- The grace period allows participants to settle their affairs and to prepare to return to their home countries. Program participants may no longer continue and/or complete their F-1 or J-1 activities, nor may they work during the grace period.

- If you do not complete your degree, you will not receive a grace period in most cases.
Warnings & Consequences

- Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offense:
  - Your visa will be cancelled!
  - A conviction is not required, just an arrest.
  - If you exit the U.S. with a revoked visa, a new visa will be required for re-entry. If your visa is revoked, you could be sent back by the airline before boarding the plane, before connecting your flight, or at a Port of Entry.

- Federal vs. State law (*marijuana*)
  - You may become ineligible for future benefits, such as employment.

Be smart, be safe – keep your status!
NEVER...

Work **OFF** campus *without prior authorization from ISSS.*

**ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY WORK OFF CAMPUS**

**WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION**
YOU ARE ALLOWED...

To work ON campus UP TO 20 hours per week while school is in session and full-time during summer and winter breaks.
NEVER…

Take a Leave of Absence, withdraw from classes, OR drop below the required number of credits without prior authorization from ISSS.
International Travel

Remember a Travel Signature on your I-20/DS-2019!

- A Travel Signature is valid for 1 year.
- A Travel Signature is required in order to re-enter the U.S.
  - You may not be able to re-enter without one.
- Plan ahead! Get a travel signature at least 2 weeks prior to your departure from the U.S.; do not wait until the last minute!
Social Security Number (SSN)

If you have approved work authorization, you must get a SSN to be paid in the U.S.

In order to apply for a SSN, you must:

- Have an employment offer letter
- Complete the IRF and IES
- Be enrolled **full-time** in the current session
- Complete the SSN Letter Request Form from ISSS
  - You must apply for a SSN within 30 days of the date issued on the ISSS letter.
  - You cannot apply more than 30 days prior to employment start date
Taxes

You must submit taxes **EVERY April!**

- Regardless if you work in the U.S. or not, you are required to complete a tax form!
- ISSS will remind you every Spring.
- ISSS cannot help you with your taxes.
- All students with on campus jobs must schedule a meeting with the tax specialist.
Health Insurance

- CU Boulder requires all students to have health insurance for fall and spring semesters.
  - Students may elect coverage through an individual plan or CU’s Student Gold Health Insurance Plan.
  - Failure to waive means you will be automatically enrolled and charged for the Gold Plan coverage. You must show proof of individual coverage to waive this plan.

- The deadline to waive the Gold Plan coverage and submit immunization records for spring 2020 is February 5th.

- Contact Health and Wellness Services directly with questions.

- You must waive the Gold Plan each FALL.
FERPA Release Waivers

All students:

- FERPA protects your educational records and information.
- If you want ISSS to talk with anyone about your immigration record, you need to sign a FERPA Release waiver giving us approval.
- We will never release your information to another person without your approval.

Instructions to Set Up a FERPA Release
Electronic Billing

You can authorize a payer for Electronic Billing!

- Visit the Bursar’s Office or email: bursar@Colorado.edu
- The Bursar’s Office is located in Regent Hall (next to the C4C)
Security Passphrase

► CU Boulder is committed to protecting your privacy
► If you call to talk to an advisor, ISSS will ask your for your Security Passphrase to confirm your identity.
► No passphrase, no information!

Setting/Updating Your Security Passphrase in Buff Portal Instructions
Buff OneCard

Use it for:

- Identification on campus
- Discounts
- Meal Card
- Campus Cash $$
- More

Buff OneCard Office

Center for Community N180
Hours: 8 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday

Bring your:

- Passport or other form of identification
- Student ID number
U.S. Bank Accounts

Does NOT require SSN

Does require SSN

USBank
CHASE
WELLS FARGO
1STBANK
ELEVATIONS CREDIT UNION
CU Boulder Email

- Check your CU Boulder (@Colorado.edu) email **daily**, even when you are in your home country on vacation!

- Avoid forwarding your CU email to too many different accounts.
ISSS Newsletter

► Once a month, ISSS Newsletter publishes announcements regarding immigration and social community updates.
► You can submit content, alerts, and events to share with the entire international community!
CU Equity & Bystander Trainings

Two trainings for all undergraduate students

- Community Equity Training: online training through Canvas
- Bystander Education Training: in-person and must be done within the first three weeks of the semester.
- Contact the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC)

Failure to complete these trainings will prevent future registration!

Note: Graduate students with assistantships may also be required to complete the trainings.
Immigration Scams

Beware of scammers posing as government officials requesting money, credit card details, or personal information.

- In most instances, scammers will:
  - Request personal information,
  - Claim there are problems with your immigration record; and
  - Ask for immediate payment to correct the issue.

- If a scammer calls you:
  - Do not provide or confirm any personal information!

- Federal Government Agencies will never call you to discuss anything
Immigration Scams

Remember the 3 R’s:

- Recognize
- Refuse
- Report
Social & Cultural Programs
CU International

- International Coffee Hour: Every Friday from 4 pm – 5:30 pm | UMC
International Peer Mentors
International Festival

▷ April 12, 2020 in the UMC
▷ Meetings every Tuesday starting February 4, 2020 in the C4C
Get Involved! Student Organizations

- Dennis Small Cultural Center
- Muslim Student Association
- African Students' Association
- ISA Boulder
- Abhinaya
- Project Nur
- CU International Affairs Club
- Boulder Nablus Sister City Project
- Chinese Students and Scholars Association at University of Colorado Boulder

International Student & Scholar Services
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
ISSS Social Media

**Facebook**: facebook.com/ISSSCU

**Instagram**: isss.cu

Snapchat: issscuboulder
Upcoming Events

► International Coffee Hour
  ► Fridays from 4 to 5:30 in the UMC Main Dining Area

► Pizza and Perspectives
  ► UMC 247, 12pm to 1pm
  ► Jan 29, Feb 26, March 19, April 16

► Snowshoeing at Rocky Mountain National Park
  ► Feb 2 and Feb 15
  ► $22, includes all gear, winter clothing, and transportation

► Employment Workshops
  ► OPT Workshops
  ► CPT Workshops

Check our website and social media in for more Spring 2020 activities!
QUESTIONS
Thank you for your attention!
We wish you a great first semester!