

Welcome International Student Spouse!

We, the staff of the International Services Office (ISO), are looking forward to welcoming you and your family into our community. We are here to assist you in any way we can during the duration of your stay here! As an international student's spouse, you must follow U.S. immigration procedures to gain permission to enter the country and begin your stay. **Please review our information for incoming spouses: www.iso.rochester.edu/population/dependents/index.html.** You will find detailed instructions and links to helpful resources, including information on applying for a visa, arriving in the U.S., considerations for bringing children, health insurance, and more.

Your Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 or DS-2019 is attached to this letter. The name printed on this document will be your official name in the U.S. and is issued to match your passport. Please be sure to complete all visa and travel forms with your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 or DS-2019.

OVERVIEW OF YOUR NEXT STEPS:

- **Check your I-20 or DS-2019 carefully for accuracy!**
Make sure that your personal information is printed correctly, and that the information matches that of your spouses. Please have your spouse sign their name in **blue ink** in the space provided: Item #11 on the I-20 or section #8 on the DS-2019.
- **Apply for the visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad, as needed.**
Schedule your visa interview as early as possible before your intended travel, up to 120 days before your start date on the I-20/DS-2019, to allow for possible processing delays (Canadian citizens do not need a U.S. visa).
- **Travel to the U.S. and enter in valid F-2 or J-2 status.**
You may enter the country up to 30 days before the program start date of your spouse. It is important that you carry all necessary documents with you. At the Port of Entry, you will receive a stamp in your passport with the category and Duration of Status (D/S). As a dependent, your stay in the U.S. is tied to the start and end date and maintenance of your spouse or parent. You will also be assigned an I-94 number. For additional information, visit: www.iso.rochester.edu/travel/arrive/i94.html.
- **Complete your mandatory Immigration Check-In and Orientation with ISO.**
All international spouses must complete a **mandatory** immigration check-in with the ISO upon arriving on campus! Please visit the ISO anywhere between 9AM and 4PM, Monday through Friday, in 213 Morey Hall on the River Campus to do the check-in. You must bring with you your passport, original I-20 or DS-2019, and any other immigration documents that you receive when you enter the country. You will receive an e-mail from our office regarding your Orientation. Although it is not mandatory to attend, these sessions provide useful information and resources to assist you in adjusting to life in Rochester.

We look forward to your arrival to the University and welcoming you into the Rochester community. Please contact our staff with any additional questions through questions@iso.rochester.edu or at (585) 275-2866.

Sincerely,

The International Services Office Staff