
F-1 & J-1 Student Pledge

F-1 and J-1 students are authorized to pursue a full course of study towards specific educational or professional objectives at approved U.S. academic institutions. Once your academic objectives have been met, the U.S. government expects that you intend to return to your residence abroad. When you enter the U.S., you accept responsibility to abide by the conditions of your F-1 or J-1 student status. Failure to maintain lawful status can result in serious penalties. Please review the guidelines below and contact the ISO with any questions. More detailed information is also on the ISO website: www.iso.rochester.edu.

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS (*You must carry original documents when traveling in the U.S. or abroad.*)

Certificate of Eligibility: The Form I-20 or DS-2019 is issued by an educational institution or sponsor to document a student's eligibility to attend the identified academic program. This form must be presented to the U.S. consulate abroad to apply for a visa and to immigration officials upon each entry to the U.S. Any changes to your academic program (academic dates, major, degree level, funding, etc.) must be reflected on your I-20 or DS-2019. You must keep *all* forms issued during your studies.

- **F-1 Form I-20:** Travel signature (page 3) must be updated by an ISO staff member every academic year.
- **J-1 Form DS-2019:** Travel validation (page 1) must be signed every academic year by the program sponsor.

Passport: The passport must be valid at all times during your stay in the U.S. and must be valid at least 6 months into the future when entering the U.S. or applying for a visa. The passport is usually renewable through your embassy in the U.S.

Visa: This stamp in your passport permits you to enter the U.S. in the appropriate status. The visa may expire while you are here and can only be renewed at a U.S. consulate or embassy abroad. If you travel after your visa expires, you must renew the stamp before reentry. Short-term travel to Canada, Mexico, & nearby islands may be permitted with an expired visa.

I-94 Card: This small white card documents your valid entry to the U.S. and grants permission to remain in the authorized status for a specified period of time. The card is stamped at the Port of Entry with your date of arrival, valid F-1 or J-1 status, and the length of your permitted stay. The expiration date is usually "D/S", meaning Duration of Status, which is tied to the completion date on your I-20 or DS-2019. The "Admission Number" is printed at the top and may change with future travel.

MAINTAINING VALID IMMIGRATION STATUS

Always:

1. Maintain a valid passport, with an expiration date at least 6 months into the future at all times.
2. Attend the school whose name appears on your I-20 or DS-2019.
3. Register full-time every academic term through the completion of your studies.
4. Maintain a valid I-20 or DS-2019. Apply for an extension at least one month before your expiration date.
5. Notify within 10 days any change in address, phone, or email: www.iso.rochester.edu/study/enrolled/address.html.
6. Obtain a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 from the ISO each year or before you depart the U.S.
7. Maintain U.S. health insurance for you and your dependents (mandatory for J-1 & J-2 programs).
8. Contact the ISO to report a change in your immigration status or initiate an immigration transfer.
9. Obey all relevant grace periods following degree completion, academic withdrawal, or program termination.
10. Maintain accurate information in your GLACIER record for UR Payroll and complete required tax reporting each year.

Never:

1. Work off-campus without written authorization from the ISO or USCIS, prior to the start of your employment.
2. Work more than 20 hours per week on campus while school is in session.
Note: J-1 students must request work authorization from the ISO for each on-campus job in advance. F-1 students are automatically authorized for on-campus employment while attending UR.
3. Take a leave of absence or drop below full-time registration without authorization from the ISO!
4. Accept an I-20/DS-2019 signature or immigration advice from anyone other than ISO staff, your J-1 sponsor, or attorney.

I have read & understand these guidelines: _____ **Date:** _____

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN STATUS If you fail to follow these rules and maintain legal F-1 or J-1 status, you will face great challenges to regain legal status in the U.S., along with possible deportation. During this time, you will not be eligible to study or work in the U.S. and may not travel using your I-20 or DS-2019 from the University of Rochester.