Immigration Regulations & Information for F-1 and J-1 Students
**Immigration Rules and Regulations for F-1 and J-1 Visa holders**

*Check your Bronco email and the International Insider (the ISS weekly newsletter) at least once per week to receive important immigration updates from ISS*

**SEVIS**
SEVIS stands for Student Exchange and Visitor Information System, which is the government's database for tracking international visitors.

Boise State University is required to use SEVIS to report information about F-1 and J-1 visa holders to Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS).

**Student Visa Regulations**
F-1 visa holders must follow specific rules and regulations set by the government while they are in the United States. **It is your responsibility to know and follow the rules for your visa!**

**What is “status”?**
- If you are “in status”, this means you are following all of the CIS (Citizenship and Immigration Services) rules for your visa type.
- If you are “out of status” this means you are NOT following the rules for your visa type.
- You MUST stay in status or you will be required to leave the US immediately.

**How do I stay “in status”?**
- Attend mandatory orientation (as a new student)
- Participate in immigration check in at the beginning of EVERY semester
- Complete a full course load of credits each and every semester (12 credits or more for undergraduates, 9 credits or more for graduate students)
- Limit your online credits. A maximum of 3 credit hours may apply to your full-time status each semester.
- Inform ISS within 10 days if you change your address
- Inform the ISS within 10 days if you change your name
- Continue to make progress towards your degree
- Do not work off-campus
- Do not let your passport to expire
- Do not let your I-20 or DS-2019 expire
- Check with ISS if you have questions

**Talk to International Student Services before you do any of the following:**
- Drop a class
- Change your major
- Leave the US (permanently or temporarily)
- Transfer to a new school
- Completely withdraw from the university
- Apply to change your visa status or renew your F/J visa

**Can I take less than a full course load?**
International Student Services can allow you to take less than a full load of classes for the following reasons. You MUST be approved to drop the classes before you drop them.

- Medical reasons - which require a letter from a doctor
- Academic reasons such as language challenges and adjustment issues
Contact the ISS office for an appointment if you believe you qualify for a Reduced Course Load.

You are not required to take a full course load during your final semester of classes, if you need less than a full load to complete your degree program. However, ISS requires a letter or e-mail from your academic advisor confirming your final semester course load.

Can I work?
- International students can work on-campus only for a maximum of 20 hours per week, while Fall and Spring semesters are in session.
- During breaks between semesters, you can work more than 20 hours per week on-campus. (You may work more than 20 hours per week during the summer, whether or not you take classes.)
- Boise State University Human Resources Office requires that you obtain an employment authorization letter from ISS before you begin your on-campus job.
- You will need to apply for a Social Security Number once you obtain employment. ISS can help you with this.
- The law does not allow you to apply for a Social Security Number unless you have been offered a job and will be working.
- For more information about on-campus employment, visit the ISS webpage at iss.boisestate.edu.

What about internships?
- International students who have been in the US with a valid F-1 visa status for at least one school year may qualify to do an internship off-campus. For more information, visit the ISS webpage at iss.boisestate.edu.

What does the university have to report to CIS?
- Every session, the university has to:
  - Report whether you are registered for the semester
  - Report your current address
  - Report if you have been approved for an off-campus internship
  - Report if you have been approved for a Reduced Course Load

Your I-20/DS-2019
- Your I-20/DS-2019 is different from your visa. Your I-20/DS-2019 is the immigration document that says you are an active student at Boise State. Your I-20/DS-2019 must remain current at all times. Do NOT let your I-20/DS-2019 expire!
- If your I-20/DS-2019 is about to expire and you plan to continue your study at Boise State, contact ISS 4 to 6 weeks before the expiration date on your I-20 for a possible extension.
- If you plan to travel outside the US, remember to get a travel signature from ISS before you leave.

What if my F or J visa expires while I am in the US?
- You may remain in the U.S. with an expired visa, so long as you are maintaining your student status. It is not possible to renew your F or J visa within the U.S. If you travel outside the U.S. with an expired visa, you must renew it before attempting to re-enter the U.S. The visa renewal process is similar to your initial visa appointment with the U.S. Embassy. Contact ISS for more information.

What should I do if I have questions or need help?
- If you have questions, contact ISS.
  - By email at internationalinfo@boisestate.edu or phone at 426-3652
  - You may schedule an appointment to meet with an adviser by calling 208-426-3652