Winter Break is right around the corner! Add these reminders and events to your Fall to-do list.

OIS provides immigration, visa, and travel guidance to the Johns Hopkins University international community which includes over 11,000 students, scholars, faculty, staff, researchers, and dependents annually. In addition to our website, individuals may access an array of e-requests around the clock via our iHopkins self-service portal. We also offer individualized advising by email as well as by phone:

- F-1 and J-1 students may send emails to ois@jhu.edu only.
- Email: please allow 1-2 business days for a response
- iHopkins requests are routinely processed within 10 business days
- Open phone advising for students: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 1pm-4pm Eastern Time. No appointment required.
- For H-1B questions, please email H1B-Employment@jhu.edu
- For J-1 scholar questions, please email J1-Advising@jhu.edu
Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 23rd – Friday, November 24th

Winter Holiday: December 25th – January 2nd

JHU, including the OIS Office, will be closed on the following dates in November and December:

- Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 23rd – Friday, November 24th
- Winter Holiday: December 25th – January 2nd

OIS advisors will not be available during these dates. If your I-20/DS-2019 does not have a valid travel signature, request one now if you plan to travel during the upcoming university breaks.

If you experience an emergency at the border that impacts your ability to enter the U.S., contact OIS at 443-240-1938. This number is for border emergencies only.

Travel & Travel Signatures

J-1 Exchange Visitors and F-1 Students:
Request a travel signature at least 10 business days in advance of travel. Instructions are on the OIS website here: ois.jhu.edu/travel-information/

H-1B Employees:
Request a “Travel Letter” through iHopkins: ois.jhu.edu/Travel_Information/Travel_in_H-1B_Status/index.html. In addition, all H-1B employees should carry their Form I-797 and other documents listed on the OIS website to demonstrate their continued employment.

OPT Q&A SESSION - 11/16

OIS advisors will provide updates on OPT and answer questions submitted during the session.

Participants are advised to review the OPT info online before attending a Q&A session: How To Apply for OPT

When: Thursday, November 16th at 12:00 p.m.
Registration is required. Register here: https://jh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8EEomvKxT8yViYyb9GFEF4w.
Additional sessions will be available in spring.
U.S. Immigration & Employment Seminar

This seminar series explores various immigration and employment options like US Permanent Residency and transitioning from F-1 and J-1 status to H-1B. The seminar is open to all JHU affiliates.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024—4:00-5:00 p.m. EST
To join the webinar via Zoom, visit tinyurl.com/JHU0224

CPT Requirements

As you plan for the spring semester and possible off campus opportunities, please keep in mind CPT eligibility and application requirements for F-1 students:

- Always review the OIS CPT page: CPT Eligibility & Application Instructions
- To be eligible for CPT, an F-1 student must have completed one academic year in the US
- The position must be directly related to your academic program
- CPT authorization is not guaranteed
- Authorization for CPT is required BEFORE you begin working. Plan and submit your request at least 10 business days in advance

Electronic Form DS-2019 Reminder

OIS began providing digitally signed DS-2019 forms in October 2023. OIS advisors are authorized by the U.S. Department of State to digitally sign and electronically transmit form DS-2019. J-1 Exchange Visitors must continue to print a physical copy and manually sign the bottom section of any DS-2019 forms they receive through electronic transmission after October 2023.
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

International Students at Hopkins (ISAH) Survey

The International Students at Hopkins (ISAH), a student-led initiative from the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, invites international graduate students and post docs to participate in our programming feedback survey.

This survey will take 5-10 minutes of your time and will be used to influence future programming.

Survey Link:
https://jh.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_SucalE0hAsFigtA

If you have any questions or additional comments to share with our team, please reach out to isah@jhu.edu. Follow ISAH on Instagram for the latest news, events, and resources!

TAKE SURVEY

Facilitating Difficult Conversations

In addition to their recent event, the Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation has provided some resources for those leading classes to help in facilitating difficult conversations during class. Click here for great tips and best practices: Facilitating Difficult Conversations during Class.

Flu Vaccination Deadline

All Johns Hopkins University affiliates are required to receive and report their annual flu shot by November 17th. Read more for information on vaccination sites and uploading proof completion.

Update Your Local Address

F-1 Students and J-1 Students and Scholars are required to update their address with OIS within 10 business days following a change of address. To update your address:

- F-1 and J-1 Students:
  Follow the instructions on the OIS website:
  https://ois.jhu.edu/Students/Current_F1_Students/Updating_Your_Addr

- J-1 Scholars:
  To notify OIS of an address change, please email J1-Advising@jhu.edu with ADDRESS UPDATE in the subject line.
EVENTS & RESOURCES

SAFE ZONE TRAINING 12/6-7
Safe Zone conferences will be held virtually on December 6-7, 1-4:30pm. Participants can take all 4 workshops or sign up for individual workshops as their schedules allow. Please check out our website for more details and to register!

READ MORE

EAST BALTIMORE FOOD PANTRY
The Food Security Coalition in partnership with the Bloomberg School of Public Health, School of Nursing, School of Medicine, and University Health and Well-being announces the opening of a pop-up Hopkins Food Pantry at East Baltimore. Limited shopping hours will be open to all Hopkins affiliates.: 11/17 (12-2PM), 11/21 (5-7PM) 12/1 (1-3PM), 12/4 (5-7PM), 12/11 (8-10AM)
For more information please contact the Food Security Coalition.

READ MORE

YOUR LANGUAGE HERE 11/16
Come to the Writing Center to celebrate all the languages at Johns Hopkins. We’re asking all writers in the Johns Hopkins community to join us by sharing your languages in a translation exercise. Help us create a tapestry of language use in this interactive event. Pizza and snacks!

READ MORE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 11/13 - 17
International Education Week is an opportunity for college campuses to celebrate intercultural exchange. Join the Center for Diversity & Inclusion- Multicultural Affairs and ISAH for a week of exciting events! For a list of events and registration requirements, click here: ISAH or follow ISAH on Instagram

READ MORE
World Events and Wellness Resources

World events, particularly in tragic times of war, unrest, and natural disasters, weigh heavily on our minds. This is poignantly true for those separated from loved ones back home who may be in harm’s way. JHU has a number of resources available to support individuals who are deeply feeling the impact of such events. OIS and campus partners are available to assist you. Never hesitate to reach out to OIS (ois@jhu.edu) if you do not know which way to turn when you are struggling or are in need of support, and we will work to connect you to the appropriate resource.

OIS has regularly reached out to international students from impacted areas and invited them to support spaces, providing follow-up resources via direct email. Individuals may also reach out directly to ois@jhu.edu with questions and requests, or review and use the following select resources:

- **Student Health and Well-Being resources blog** (also noted in an Instagram post)
- **Employee Assistance Program support and resources**
- **Public Safety Escort Program**
- **Coping with News Resource**: Student Health and Well-Being staff assembled some tips on "How to Handle a Stressful News Cycle."

**Requests for leave of absence or time off, including temporary alternate work/study arrangements:**
International individuals struggling with world events who are having difficulty making a request of a professor or supervisor, or in receiving a requested accommodation, may contact their school’s student or academic affairs office, as well as OIS. While faculty and supervisors ultimately decide to allow leave or offer accommodations, immigration regulations often govern when and how long leave or accommodations are permissible. OIS advisors will advise on immigration restrictions, as well as advocate on your behalf with faculty, supervisors, and divisional leadership, as appropriate.

- If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, contact the Behavioral Health Crisis Support Team at 410-516-WELL (9355) to speak with a crisis support clinician.
- Report all instances of discrimination and harassment with the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) here. Discrimination and harassment FAQs are available here.
- Dial "911" for any emergency that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department, or ambulance, including when you are in a dangerous situation and need help.

**The Johns Hopkins Briefing**
In this series, experts provide timely analysis and insights about topics of national and global importance and engage in real-time Q&A with the audience. The Office of Interdisciplinary Initiatives hosts the series.