



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Newsletter October 2023



We hope that you are having an academically successful fall so far!

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

IN THIS ISSUE

[Wellness Resources](#)

[OIS Events](#)
[Understanding the 212\(e\) Immigration Employment Options](#)
[OPT Q&A Session](#)

Immigration Updates

[Enrollment Requirements](#)

[Update your Local Address](#)

[Review your I-20/DS-2019](#)

[Travel & Travel Signatures](#)

[Apply for OPT](#)

[Digital Signature - DS-2019](#)

[J-2 Family Members](#)

Campus Events & Resources

[ISAH Survey](#)

[Fall Flu Vaccination Clinics](#)

[Hopkins Food Pantry](#)

[Vintage Halloween Spectacular](#)



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.

OIS EVENTS



UNDERSTANDING THE 212(E)-TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT 10/27

The JHU Office of International Services (OIS) will hold a virtual presentation to assist individuals in understanding the 212(e) Two-Year Home Residency requirement, if they are currently participating in a J-1 Exchange Visitor Program or have formerly held J-1 status. The session will address what it means to be subject to 212(e), how to determine who is subject, follow up options for those who appear to be subject, and commonly asked questions about this topic. *Note- presentation will not address waiver options for ECFMG-sponsored physicians. **Details below:**

What: Understanding the 212(e) Two-Year Home Residency Requirement

When: Friday, October 27th at 12:15 p.m.

Where: Virtual presentation (Zoom)

Register here:

https://jh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TP3ci5pFTW-CaXXG0_F8vA

Contact: J1-Advising@jhu.edu with any questions!

REGISTER



IMMIGRATION EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS SEMINAR 11/9, 2/20

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.

- Thursday, November 9, 2023—4:00-5:00 p.m. EST, <https://jh.zoom.us/j/99187213073?pwd=bmFKeU1TQUVtUmdSOS9PWS82QXFzUT09>
- Tuesday, February 20, 2024—4:00-5:00 p.m. EST, <https://jh.zoom.us/j/94926678408?pwd=akFtc2JFZWpvcDRCYi9QK0dZZDEzZz09>

READ MORE



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_8EEomvKaT8yVfYb9GFEF4w.

Additional sessions will be available in spring.

REGISTER



IMMIGRATION UPDATES

F-1 & J-1 Student Enrollment Requirements

OIS works hard to assist you in maintaining a valid immigration status at all times while in the U.S. Students in F-1 and J-1 status are subject to visa-related enrollment requirements each term in the U.S.

To be considered full-time during the academic year, all required courses must be in-person courses except for one that can be online or hybrid. For example, if full-time enrollment in your program is 9 credits, only one course out of those 9 credits can be online or hybrid. The rest of the courses must be in-person to meet the full-time enrollment threshold. Once the threshold has been met, additional online courses may be added above full-time enrollment. For more on F-1 enrollment requirements, click [here](#). For J-1 enrollment requirements, click [here](#).

Reduced Course Load: F-1 and J-1 students not enrolled full time, must have prior authorization from OIS for a Reduced Course Load (RCL). The most common reasons for requesting an RCL is during the final term of a student's program when they need less than a full-time course load to complete degree requirements, or for medical reasons. To request consideration for a reduced course load authorization, submit the Reduced Course Load Request form through [iHopkins](#).

For more on maintaining your immigration status in the U.S., F-1 students may click [here](#) and J-1 students may click [here](#).

Update Your Local Address

Please remember that 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:

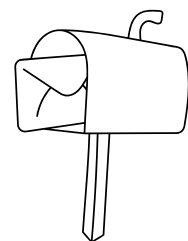
- **F-1 and J-1 Students:**

Follow the instructions on the OIS website:

https://ois.jhu.edu/Students/Current_F1_Students/Updating_Your_Address/

- **J-1 Scholars:**

To notify OIS of an address change, please email J1-Advising@jhu.edu with ADDRESS UPDATE in the subject line.



F-1 & J-1 Students - Review your I-20/DS-2019

Your I-20/DS-2019 is an important document that assists in maintaining your F-1/J-1 student status. It is important that your I-20/DS-2019 is accurate and up to date. Always review your I-20/DS-2019 for accuracy and request an update [via iHopkins](#) if any changes are required.

- **Program End Date:** Is your program end date accurate? If you are an F-1 student and graduating early, your program end date will be shortened by OIS. If you need additional time to complete graduation requirements, you must request an I-20 or DS-2019 extension in iHopkins before your program end date.
- **Your Major/Program of Study:** did you change your major since you received your I-20/DS-2019? Request an update via the “I-20 Reprint/Travel Request eForm” in iHopkins.
- **Finances:** has your financial support changed since you last received your I-20/DS-2019? Request an update via the “I-20 Reprint/Travel Request eForm” in iHopkins.
- **Degree Level:** If you anticipate changing degree levels, your I-20/DS-2019 must be updated in advance of the change. Click the relevant link below based on your student category for additional information.
 - F-1 Students: [Change of Level](#)
 - J-1 Students: [Changes in Degree Level](#)
- **Citizenship and Name:** If your name or country of citizenship has changed, your I-20/DS-2019 must be updated via the I-20 Reprint/Travel Request eForm in iHopkins.

Travel & Travel Signatures

Planning to travel outside the U.S. during fall or winter break? Review the “[Travel Information](#)” section of the OIS website and prepare the appropriate documentation before departing the U.S.

If you do not have a valid travel signature on page 2 of your I-20 or page 1 of your DS-2019, request one now [via iHopkins](#) if you’re planning to travel for Thanksgiving or Intersession. Travel signatures are valid for 1 year.

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.

F-1 Students Graduating This Fall - Apply for OPT!

Now’s the time to begin planning for OPT. Eligibility to apply for OPT begins 90 days before the end of your program. It can take 3-5 months for students to receive their OPT authorization from USCIS. Remember you must be in the US to apply. Learn more and watch the OPT Presentation by visiting our website: [How to apply for OPT](#) OIS will also host an OPT Q&A session to answer student questions. See additional details under ‘OIS Events’.

Digital Signatures for form DS-2019

Reminder: OIS is providing digital signatures on DS-2019 forms. OIS will no longer use USPS first-class or express mail service delivery for hard-copy DS-2019 forms containing handwritten signatures as DS-2019s will be sent electronically.

Information for J-2 Family Members

J-1 Exchange Visitors may choose to have their dependent family members accompany them on their program (limited to spouse or children under age 21). The OIS website includes resources for [J-2 Dependent Family Members](#) which covers information about how J-1 Exchange Visitors can request to add J-2 dependent family members, as well as information about study in the U.S. and applying for work authorization. J-2 dependents may only engage in employment in the U.S. after receiving authorization (EAD) through USCIS.



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_8ucalEOhAsF0ztA

Prizes: On Friday, December 1, 2023, winners will be randomly selected from those who chose to participate in the optional drawing. Link to sign-up for the drawing is only available after the survey is completed.

\$25 Amazon Gift Card - 2 winners

\$10 Amazon Gift Card - 25 winners

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

ADDITIONAL EVENTS & RESOURCES



FALL FLU VACCINATION - DEADLINE 11/17

All Johns Hopkins University affiliates are required to receive and report their annual flu shot. The deadline to receive and report your shot is November 17th. Free, drop-in flu vaccination clinics are now being held at various sites across the university. [Read more](#) for information on vaccination sites and uploading proof completion.

[READ MORE](#)



HOPKINS FOOD PANTRY

The Hopkins Food Pantry was founded to help address food insecurity for all Hopkins affiliates. The Food Pantry works in partnership with the Maryland Food Bank to ensure JHU affiliates have the opportunity to succeed. To register with the Hopkins Food Pantry, please complete this [registration form](#).

[READ MORE](#)



VINTAGE HALLOWEEN SPECTACULAR 10/25

View some ghostly delights in [Special Collections](#). See spooky rare books, play midcentury creepy board games (some even glow in the dark), and have your fortunes told by Special Collections' student staff. You can even make your own creepy or cute clay ghost as a memento.

[READ MORE](#)



Have a non-immigration related question? Here are some great JHU resources to keep on hand:

- [SEAM](#)
- [Housing Operations](#)
- [Off Campus Housing Office](#)
- [Integrative Learning and Life Design](#)
- [Diversity & Inclusion](#)
- [Wellbeing](#)
- [Transportation Services](#)

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