



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Newsletter December 2023



Best of luck on your exams! Prepare for winter break with these reminders:

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

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OIS Closures for Winter Holiday

JHU, including OIS, will be closed on the following dates: **December 25th – January 1st** for Winter Break.

OIS advisors will not be available during these dates. Please submit any time-sensitive requests to OIS prior to these dates. **If you are planning to travel during the upcoming university break and need a [travel signature](#) for F-1 or J-1 students and scholars, or a [Travel Letter](#) for H-1B employees, please request one now.**

The [OIS Website](#) contains information for travelers experiencing border emergencies or difficulties with re-entry to the U.S.

Travel Reminders

Planning to travel outside the U.S.? Review the "[Travel Information](#)" section of the OIS website and prepare the appropriate documentation before departing the U.S. Request travel signatures **now** if you're planning to travel for winter break. Also keep the following in mind:

- Your travel documents like your passport, and visa must be valid at the time of re-entry to the U.S.
- You must have a valid [travel signature](#) on your I-20/DS-2019. H-1B employees must have a [Travel Letter](#)
- Have OIS contact information available in the event of immigration related emergencies at the border: [Contact OIS](#)
- Once you re-enter the U.S., check your I-94 to ensure you were re-admitted in the proper visa category. To retrieve your I-94 visit i94.cbp.dhs.gov and select 'Get Most Recent I-94'.



Issues at the Border:

*There is inherent risk involved in any travel abroad and re-entry, and OIS cannot guarantee that it will go smoothly. While serious problems are quite rare (a small handful of cases a year), please know that it is at the discretion of Customs and Border Protection officials at the U.S. port of entry to determine whether someone is admissible to the U.S. OIS is aware of a couple of students who were recently denied re-entry after a brief period of international travel. This required a direct return to their home country. **If you experience any issues at the port of entry, please [reach out to OIS](#) as soon as possible** with a detailed account of what occurred so that we may assess the reasons for the problem and explore solutions.*

Working on Campus - Winter Break

Students who are not required to enroll in classes during winter break can work full time on campus. Full time work is considered anything more than 20 hours. Please review additional information about on campus work requirements here: [Working on Campus](#)

Spring 2024 Graduates – Reduced Course Load

International students must enroll full-time in each term of their degree program unless they request and receive authorization from OIS for a Reduced Course Load (RCL).

If spring 2024 is your final semester at JHU, and you will not be enrolled full time, you are required to submit a [Reduced Course Load \(RCL\)](#) request to OIS several days prior to the start of the spring 2024 term. **Requests submitted to OIS before the term start will be processed once the term begins.**

Review the RCL authorization process [here](#).



APPLY
NOW

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



* Open to ALL JHU Affiliates *



Presented by Jim Arkell
Arkell Immigration Team, Dunn
Law Firm, LLP

- ✓ U.S. Permanent Residence
- ✓ National Interest Waivers
- ✓ Extraordinary ability petitions
- ✓ Transitioning from F-1/J-1 to H-1B

Moderated by Jennifer Kerilla, Director, International Scholars and Employment, OIS

NOV. 9 November 9th, 2023
Virtual
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
To join the webinar via Zoom, visit tinyurl.com/JHU1123

FEB. 20 February 20th, 2024
Virtual
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
To join the webinar via Zoom, visit tinyurl.com/JHU0224

LEARN MORE

Disclaimer: OIS does not endorse or recommend the law firm providing this presentation. JHU sponsorship policies on permanent residency and non-immigrant statuses such as H-1B or O-1 apply when the university is the petitioner. Consult OIS at ois@jhu.edu with questions about employer sponsorship.



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_8ucalEOhAsF0ztA

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

On-Campus Medical Services

On-campus medical services are available for JHU students even during the winter break. If you need of medical services, check [here](#) for appointment availability and office locations.

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:

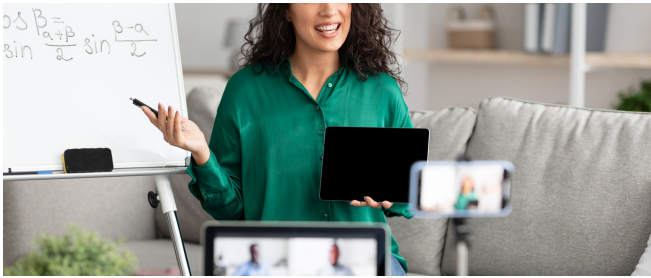
- **F-1 and J-1 Students:**

Follow the instructions on the OIS website: [Update 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.

EVENTS & RESOURCES



EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE TEACHING SYMPOSIUM 12/12

The Excellence in Online Teaching Symposium brings faculty and instructional staff together to share best practices in designing and facilitating online courses and programs. This is an open, online event in which members of the Johns Hopkins community hope to learn from and engage with colleagues from institutions across the globe.

[READ MORE](#)



THE LONG NIGHT AGAINST PROCRASTINATION 12/12

KSAS and WSE students, join your friends at the Writing Center for The Long Night Against Procrastination! Get some serious studying done in a collaborative, supportive environment—with writing tutors to help out!

When: Tuesday, December 12 8pm-midnight

Where: The Writing Center, Gilman Hall 230

Who: KSAS and WSE students

Sign Up Required: [Sign Up Here!](#)

[READ MORE](#)



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IN BALTIMORE 11/18 -12/24

Celebrate the holiday season by visiting the Christmas Village in Baltimore! Through December 24th, this authentic German Christmas market will be open at the Baltimore Inner Harbor from 12 p.m.-8 p.m. daily, offering activities, rides, shopping, food and beverages. More information [here](#).

[READ MORE](#)



MT. VERNON MONUMENT LIGHTING 12/7

Participate in a 52-year-old Baltimore tradition! Visit Mt. Vernon on December 7th to witness the monument lighting. The event begins at 5 p.m. with food, beverages, musical performances and fireworks! More information [here](#).

[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.