

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

April 2024

Final tax reminder: Tax Day is April 15!
See how JHU [can assist you](#) if you still need to file.

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Immigration Reminders

F-1 and J-1 Students



Timely Tips From your OIS Advisor: John Gore

- Not graduating as planned this spring? Review the program end date on your I-20 or DS-2019. If you find that you need more time to complete your program requirements, you should [request an Extension](#).
- If you are completing an academic program and staying at Hopkins for another degree, make sure you are requesting a [Change of Level](#) in iHopkins.
- International travel plans? Be sure your travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 is still valid and review our [travel guidance](#) before you depart.

Reminder to Update your Local address:

- F-1 and J-1 Students and J-1 Scholars are required to update their address with OIS within 10 business days following a change of address. Please follow the appropriate steps to update your address:
- [F-1 Students](#)
- [J-1 Students](#)
- J-1 Scholars:
 - To notify OIS of an address change, please email J1-Advising@jhu.edu with ADDRESS UPDATE in the subject line.

FRAUD ALERT: Watch Out for Tax-Season Scams!

The U.S. Internal Review Service (IRS) recently warned that all [financial scams](#) are on the rise, and this is especially true during tax season. Every year a small number of JHU international students fall victim to serious financial scams. Take scams seriously and reduce your risk of becoming a target. Stay alert and learn what to watch for. Understand what to do if you think you are a target of a scam.

Common Tax Scams:

Scammers may contact you via phone, email, text, or social media and then impersonate the IRS to make you think there's a problem with your tax return. Common scam strategies include:

- Using false phone numbers or accounts to mimic a legitimate text or call from the IRS.
- Adopting fear tactics, such as suggesting your tax return has an error or that you owe a large sum of money or a penalty, as well as taking urgent action to address these types of issues.
- Instructing you to provide unusual payment methods (such as gift cards, money transfers or cryptocurrency) to pay your taxes. This is a sure sign of most ANY financial scam. Don't do it!!! Any time you are being threatened to do something immediately or without telling anyone, please contact OIS so we may connect you with JHU Public Safety for further investigation.
- Asking you to share personal information to facilitate tax refunds.

Three Tips to Safeguard Against Tax Scams:

- The IRS always initiates contact about any tax issues with a letter on official IRS letterhead. IRS will never contact you by phone, text, email, or social media.
- Don't give your personal information to anyone contacting you via phone calls, texts, email, or social media.
- You can verify the legitimacy of any communication you receive using the published IRS phone number: 1-800-829-1040.

Let's Beat the Scammers, Hopkins Blue Jays!

If you are targeted by a scammer, ignore it instead of responding. End the call if you are contacted by phone.

Visit [here](#) for more tips on identifying legitimate outreach by the IRS.

Visit the [IRS](#) for instructions on reporting tax scam attempts, and report fraud to the [Federal Trade Commission](#) or by calling 877-FTC-HELP.

For further information on avoiding scams and what to do if you are a victim, review the [OIS Scams and Frauds](#) page.

J-1 Requests for Incidental Activities:

J-1 Exchange Visitors in the Research Scholar, Professor or Short-Term Scholar categories must engage in their JHU program on a full-time basis. Occasionally, Exchange Visitors may receive offers to engage in additional paid activities beyond the scope of their primary J-1 program objective, such as delivering lectures or presentations at other institutions or teaching a course at JHU. Prior to engaging in any additional activities or receiving additional funding outside of their JHU department, Exchange Visitors must review the information on the OIS website: [J-1 Incidental Activities](#).

For questions contact J1-Advising@jhu.edu.

J-1 Program Extension Reminder:

J-1 Exchange Visitors who plan to extend their appointments at JHU beyond their current end date should consult their JHU hosting department to inquire about the possibility of extension. If approved, the JHU Department Administrator must initiate the process of extending the DS-2019 through iHopkins.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Annual Survey:

J-1 Exchange Visitors may receive an email from the U.S. Department of State (Jvisas@state.gov) asking them to complete a survey to learn more about their experiences as a J-1 program participant. The Department of State has contacted J-1 program sponsors to confirm the legitimacy of the survey request, and to encourage J-1 Exchange Visitors to complete the survey. This email will be sent to your JHU email address.

Upcoming OIS Events

10

April

**OPT SESSION
FOR ALL F-I STUDENTS**

12-1 PM EST. [Register Here!](#)

22

May

**STEM OPT SESSION
F-I STUDENTS ON OPT, ALL F-I STUDENTS**

4-5 PM EST. [Register Here!](#)

Past Event Recordings: Missed a webinar or want to review webinar materials?

Visit OIS's [Webinar Recordings page!](#)

Helpful Links

- International students, staff, researchers, and faculty are frequently targets of scams. Learn how to identify, stay aware, and protect yourself from scams on the [OIS Scams and Frauds Resource Page](#).
- JHU's Mental Health Services has locations at the Homewood Counseling Center, in East Baltimore and in Washington DC! Check out their new website [here](#) where you can find information, resources and links to programs such as an International Student Support Group, Anxiety Management, and Mindful Yoga.
- The Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Interfaith America invites you to engage in their upcoming Religious Literacy Series. Featuring expert speakers, this series will explore critical subjects like Islamophobia, Antisemitism and religious pluralism with the goal of fostering religious coexistence and deepening understanding between spiritual groups on campus. Register now to secure your spot and contribute to a more inclusive campus environment: [Registration Required - Register Here!](#)
- We continually work with our campus partners to provide resources to international students and scholars who are experiencing any type of stress or crisis. See the many ways you can find support on our [University and Community Resources](#) page.
- Looking for additional on campus events? Check out [The Hub](#) and [Hopkins Groups!](#)

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