



December 2024

Best of luck with finals!

CONTACT OIS

OIS NEWSLETTERS

JHU RESOURCES

In This Issue

Immigration Reminders

- Timely F-1/J-1 Student Tips for Maintaining Status
- Travel During Winter Break
- Winter Break Office Closure
- US Physical Address Update Process Changes

Upcoming OIS Events

- STEM Extension Reporting

Helpful Resources

- University and Community Events and Resources

Immigration Reminders

F-1 and J-1 Students



Timely Tips from Your International Student Advisor: Heidi Beltran

On-campus employment limitations are relaxed during official school breaks. While classes are not in session this Winter Break, your on-campus employment may increase to above 20 hours per week, which is the standard limit during the semester. For more information, visit the OIS web pages covering [F-1 On-campus Employment](#) or [J-1 On-campus Employment](#). Consult with your direct supervisor or an OIS advisor if you wish to increase your work hours during the break period.

Traveling this Winter Break?

Check to ensure your most recent Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 has a valid travel signature applied to it. Travel signatures are valid for 12 months and may be used multiple times during the 12-month validity period. For more information, visit the OIS web page covering [Travel Information](#) or log in to iHopkins to submit your travel signature request.

OIS does not have any specific information about upcoming changes in federal travel policies; however, changes could occur on or around January 20th. If you cannot afford an interruption in your studies, research or teaching due to an indefinite period abroad, you may want to arrange your travel plans – especially if travel is nonessential – to return to the U.S. no later than January 19, 2025.

Remember, a visa stamp in your passport issued by a U.S. consulate does not determine how long you can remain in the United States; it is only an entry document and must be valid on days that you enter the U.S. Travel solely to renew the entry visa stamp in your passport is not necessary.

JHU Winter Break Closure:

The Office of International Services and JHU will be closed for Winter Break from **24 December 2024 – 01 January 2025**. We will resume office operations on **02 January 2025** and look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus in **mid-January 2025**.

- Students and Scholars experiencing immigration emergencies at U.S. Ports of Entry during our office closure may call the OIS emergency line at +001.443.240.1938.
- Students and Scholars planning to renew their visas while traveling should review the [Visa Renewal](#) information on the OIS website, and contact OIS in case of any issues such as [Administrative Processing](#).

New! U.S. Address Update Process:

The process for updating your U.S. address with OIS has changed. All F-1 and J-1 students, as well as J-1 Scholars, must now report their local U.S. address directly to OIS within 10 days of a change. Students must also update their address in SIS. Previously, all address reporting was done only in SIS.

To ensure your information is accurate, you should review the U.S. address OIS currently has on file for you, and report any updates as needed. Follow these instructions to review and update your address:

- [F-1 Student Address Reporting](#)
- [J-1 Student Address Reporting](#)
- [J-1 Scholar Address Reporting](#)

Upcoming OIS Events

12

December

**STEM Extension Reporting
FOR F-1 STUDENTS ON OPT/STEM OPT**

3-4 PM ET. [Register Here!](#)

Review additional workshops here: [Fall F1/J1 Student Workshops](#)

Helpful Resources

University and Community Events and Resources

- [Christmas Village in Baltimore](#)
 - Through December 24th, this authentic German Christmas market will be open at the Baltimore Inner Harbor from 12:00p – 8:00/9:00p daily, offering activities, rides, shopping, food, and beverages.
- [D.C. Holiday Market at Dupont Circle](#)
 - Open through December 15th (closed Thanksgiving Day), visitors will enjoy live music, sweet treats, and holiday shopping!
- [JHU Mental Health Services](#)
 - Johns Hopkins University Mental Health Services provides accessible, equitable, and quality mental healthcare to all students, including many international students. If you or someone you know may benefit from speaking with a qualified counselor about challenges such as homesickness, anxiety, or depression, please call +001.410.516.3311 to get assistance.

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