During this unprecedented time, international graduates may have questions regarding their immigration status after graduation. This resource outlines post-graduation options and resources available to international students. Please contact Immigration Services- immigration@uga.edu with questions.

**Spring and Summer Program End Dates**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spring Term End Date</th>
<th>LLM Spring Term End Date</th>
<th>Summer Term End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2020</td>
<td>May 13, 2020</td>
<td>July 31, 2020</td>
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**General Options after Graduation**

F-1 students may remain in the United States up to 60 days following the program end date. J-1 students may remain in the United States up to 30 days following the program end date. This is called the “grace period.” During the grace period, students should make plans to depart the United States or maintain the F-1 or J-1 status through one of the options listed below:

- **Work Authorization**
  Students graduating by the end date on your I-20 or DS-2019 form may apply for post-graduation work authorization. Information about applying for OPT can be found here: [OPT Information](https://uga.edu/). Choose the appropriate status’ employment option.

- **Begin a New Program at a Different School**
  Graduates wishing to transfer to a new U.S. school for a new degree program should review the SEVIS record transfer process: [Transfer Information](https://uga.edu/).

- **Begin a New Program at UGA**
  Graduates remaining at UGA to begin a new degree program must contact Immigration Services to request a change of degree level. Information about change of level can be found here: [Change of Level Information Sheet](https://uga.edu/).

- **Completing Degree Early**
  Graduates completing the degree program before the end date on the I-20 or DS-2019 form should contact Immigration Services to request that we shorten the validity of the form.

- **Extending Academic Program and SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 form**
  Students needing additional time to complete their academic program can apply to extend their I-20 or DS-2019 form, with the support of their academic department. [Extension of Status Information](https://uga.edu/).

**Departing the United States after Graduation**

Graduates planning to depart the United States after graduation should notify Immigration Services by emailing immigration@uga.edu. Due to the current travel restrictions related to COVID-19, travel may be difficult or significantly delayed.
F-1 Students

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published recent guidance for nonimmigrants. F-1 nonimmigrants are encouraged to depart the United States by the end of the 60 day grace period. For students unable to leave due to COVID-19, the USCIS provided the following information:

- Apply for a Change of Status (COS)
- Filing in a Timely Manner- Nonimmigrants generally do not accrue unlawful presence while the timely-filed, non-frivolous Change of Status application is pending.
- USCIS may excuse a nonimmigrants delayed request for Change of Status if the delay is due to extraordinary circumstances.
- USCIS will provide further updates as the situation develops. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for the latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- To review the full details of this guidance, visit: https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/covid-19-delays-extensionchange-status-filings

If you are unable to depart the United States due to COVID-19 restrictions, please inform our office (immigration@uga.edu), and contact a reputable immigration attorney. The Change of Status application may be an option for you. These petitions are complex and legal advice is recommended.

J-1 Students

The U.S. Department of State (DoS) Exchange Visitor Program automatically extended certain J-1 programs ending between April 1st – May 31st, 2020 for an additional 2 months. This extension was made in order to provide exchange visitors the opportunity to complete either their educational or training programs, or continue to finalize travel plans to return home. If your program end date is between the above dates, please contact us to receive an updated copy of your DS-2019 form (immigration@uga.edu): You may read the full statement from DoS here.

Campus Partners & Resources

UGA COVID-19 Information & Resources for students

Student Care & Outreach coordinates care and assistance for all students, undergraduate and graduate, who experience complex, hardship, and/or unforeseen circumstances, by providing individualized assistance and tailored interventions.

International Student Life enhances the student-learning environment through programs and services that internationalize the campus experience.

Career Center offers a wide variety of career guidance and resources. A new resource to assist with the international job search is Interstride. Login today!

Immigration Services is here to answer your questions. Please feel free to email us or set up an advising appointment. To schedule an appointment via Zoom or Phone, please click HERE