



Office of Global Engagement UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Immigration Services
1324 South Lumpkin St., Athens, GA 30602
immigration@uga.edu
(706) 542-2900 fax: (706) 583-0123

Maintaining Non-SEVIS Immigration Status as a College Student in the U.S.

Non-U.S. Citizens can come to the U.S. in a variety of different visa statuses. Some of these visa types are directly for the purpose of full-time study, such as the F-1 or J-1 student visas. Students holding these visa types are known as “SEVIS” students, as they have active records in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS visa types allow certain employment benefits in the U.S.

Primary Visa Types Allowing Incidental Study

Some visa types allow study that is incidental to the primary purpose of the visa the person has been issued. These visas include the H-1B, TN, and O-1, however the person must be able to show that they are still maintaining the original visa status and purpose. Studying while under these visa types may allow the person to work according to what is allowed by the original visa, but does not allow any student employment benefits accorded by the F-1 or J-1 student visa types.

Dependent Visa Types Allowing Full-time or Part-time Study

Other visa types are issued to the dependent family members of “principal” visa holders. These include but are not limited to:

- the H-4 (dependent of an H-1B worker),
- the TD (dependent of a TN worker from Canada or Mexico),
- the O-3 (dependent of an O-1 visa holder),
- the J-2 (dependent of a J-1 exchange visitor) and
- the G-4 (dependent of a diplomatic or government visa holder).

All these dependent visa types do allow full-time study in the U.S., however, a dependent child can only hold a dependent visa until they turn 21 years of age. At that point, the child “ages out” and must have applied for and received an alternate visa of his or her own.

Pending Adjustment Applicants

Some people have a pending immigrant status that allows them to remain in the U.S., and to live and work and study freely while they are waiting for their U.S. permanent residency to be approved. These students must be able to show a filed and pending I-485 receipt notice and an approved and valid temporary work card if they are working.

Visa Types Prohibiting Study of any Kind

There are two specific visa types that prohibit study of any kind:

- F-2 (dependents of F-1 students)

- B-2 tourists, or WT visitor visa waiver participants

People holding either of the above visa types are precluded from studying in any capacity, other than a casual course that is incidental to the original purpose of visit.

Maintaining Status as a NON-SEVIS student

- **Be sure you are complying with the original terms of your visa**
- **If you are a dependent, make sure that the principal visa holder is still in the U.S., and is maintaining status**
- **If you are a dependent, make sure you are not about to turn 21 with no alternate visa status approved**
- **Make sure you check in with the International Student, Scholar, and Immigration Services Office when you arrive on campus.**

If you currently hold a Non-SEVIS immigration status, and are coming to UGA or currently attending UGA, please contact our office if you wish more information on the SEVIS student visa types – F-1 and J-1. Do **NOT** let your 21st birthday pass without changing your immigration status, if you hold a dependent visa type. Regardless of the visa type held, all international students must check in with our office upon arrival on campus.