Orientation for New and Transfer International Students
WELCOME TO UDC!
SEVIS
Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

- Provides tracking, monitoring, and access to accurate and current information on non-immigrant students (F-1 visa)
- Enables schools to transmit electronic information via the Internet to the DHS and the Department of State throughout a student stay in the United States.
- Monitors F-1 students and scholars and their dependents on F-2 visas. All are listed in SEVIS and have been assigned a SEVIS ID number. Your SEVIS ID is the 11-digit number above the bar code in the upper right corner of page 1 of your I-20 form.
Maintaining Your F-1 Status

- There are over 600,000 students on F1 visas studying in the United States, approximately 500+ of you attend UDC. In order to help you maintain your status, it is very important that you take responsibility for the following:
  - Understand that you are not *domestic* students!
  - **Read Page 2** of your I-20!
  - Know the end date on your I-20.
  - Visit the www.uscis.gov website. **Inform** yourself.
  - Ask questions, if you have concerns (in these meetings, via appointment, or e-mail).
  - Read the information that I provide to you in these meetings and on the UDC website.
Information That May Require Changes to Your I-20

1. Changes in your name, address, academic major or visa status
2. Extension of stay or Reinstatement
3. Travel
4. Work Authorization/Employment during vacation periods
5. BLUE LETTERS received by DHS (Dept. of Homeland Security)
6. Withdrawal from the University
7. Illness/Medical Situation
8. Filing applications for other potential F-1 students
9. F-2 Dependent Issues
10. Transferring to another school
F-2 Dependents

- As an F-1 visa holder, you are entitled to bring dependents.
- You must show that you can financially support each dependent you bring.
- To bring a dependent, a formal request must be made to the international student advisor.
- Submit your request to me via e-mail; please include the name, date of birth, relationship, country of birth and citizenship.
Employment

- **On-Campus Employment**
  - Students must provide a letter of employment from the office/department they will be employed with, and include the address of the Social Security office they will visit to obtain their S.S. cards.

- **Economic Hardship**
  - Applies to students whose financial situation has changed unexpectedly, beyond their control. It may include any of the following: loss of financial aid, unexpected loss of sponsorship (partial or total), substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rates, large increases in tuition, medical bills, living expenses, and/or other substantial unexpected expenses. Do not immediately request this.
OPT and CPT

Optional Practical Training - Temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student’s major area of study and commensurate with degree level. Allows a maximum of 12 months of practical experience. Students do not need to secure employment before applying for OPT. Requires USCIS approval.

Curricular Practical Training - CPT “must be an integral part of an established curriculum.” It allows an F-1 student to engage in “alternate work/study, internship, cooperative education or any other type of required internship or practicum.” A student may choose to receive wages or academic credit for this experience. Should you start an internship without prior authorization, your CPT will not be authorized. CPT does not require USCIS approval.
Financial Assistance at UDC

- International students are not eligible for federal aid (FAFSA), but you should seek information from Financial Aid about other forms of scholarships and assistance.

- You can apply for merit based scholarships:
  - American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowships
  - Ford Foundation International Scholarships
  - Fulbright Grants for Non-U.S. Citizens
  - Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund for International Scholars

Career Services and Student Employment: Building 38, A-02, 274-6092
Transferring out of UDC

1. Make sure you have been accepted to the new school; submit a copy of your admission letter.

2. Visit the advisor of the new school and complete the transfer form. Make sure you have no outstanding financial business with UDC.

3. Once the transfer date has been reached, we will no longer have access to your SEVIS record!!
Continuing Student Registration

- **Be aware** of the academic calendar
- **Know** when registration occurs – mid April-mid May (fall registration), and (November for spring registration) – a late fee will be charged for anyone who does not register during the appropriate dates.

- Undergraduates must be registered for 12 credits, graduates for 9 credits; unless a Reduced Course Load (RCL) has been filed with an International Student Advisor.
Reduced Course Load

Must be completed prior to dropping below 12/9 credits (within 15 days of the semester start date).

Reduced Course Load (RCL) can only be granted for specific reasons:

1. Academic Difficulties
2. Completing the course of study in current term
3. Temporary illness/medical conditions

RCL cannot be given for lack of funding or personal matters not of a medical nature.
UDC Requirements

- Identification Cards (ID)
- Health Insurance – this is required and must be purchased at the time of registration, if private insurance is not already provided.

For more health information contact:
Office of Student Life & Services, 274-5900.
Campus Organizations

- Get Involved!
- USGA – Undergraduate Student Government Association
- 60+ student groups and organizations, including academic, Greek, community, and social

Office of Student Life & Services, 274-5900
Getting Started in the U.S.
Transportation

- **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)**
  
  Obtaining a driver’s license – An international license is valid for 90 days, but it would be in your best interest to obtain a U.S. driver’s license.
  
  Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles for the area you reside in:
  
  - DC: [www.dmv.dc.gov](http://www.dmv.dc.gov)
  - Virginia: [www.dmvnow.com](http://www.dmvnow.com)
  - Maryland: [www.marylandmva.com](http://www.marylandmva.com)

- **Washington Metrorail/metrobus**
  
  [www.metroopendoors.com](http://www.metroopendoors.com)
Financial Information

- **Banking** – Identification will be required to open a bank account. Take your passport and social security card if you have one. If you do not have one and are denied an account, try another bank before you visit our office.

- **Taxes** – State and Federal taxes must be filed for every year regardless of whether or not you worked.
You are encouraged to make all requests via email:

- Johanna Marroig (SEVIS Coordinator/DSO)  
  johanna.marroig@udc.edu

- Anthony Keith (DSO)  
  akeith@udc.edu

- Thaddisa Fulwood (DSO)  
  thaddisa.fulwood@udc.edu

- Twyla Jones (PDSO)  
  tjones@udc.edu
Your Paperwork

- Please deposit all paperwork for review in Admissions, allow two business days for the SEVIS Coordinator to return your paperwork to you, if necessary.
Other Useful Resources

- We’re on FACEBOOK: UDC Global Network (F1 Students)
- www.uscis.gov
- http://www.udc.edu/admission/int_student.htm

ALL F1-related forms and information can be found on University website. Please review the information and know how to access it.
...more resources

American Ways: An Introduction to American Culture (3rd Edition) (Paperback)
by Maryanne Kearny Datesman

  by Gary Althen