STUDENTS COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S.

 Obtaining a US Visa Stamp:
- If you have the I-20, then apply for an F-1 Visa.
- If you have the DS-2019, then apply for a J-1 Visa.
- Be prepared for the interview with the consulate.
- Speak in English.
- Be able to concretely prove that you will return to your home country. (This is one of the biggest reasons why students are denied a Visa)
- Be able to explain how obtaining this degree fits into your career plans.
- Be able to show that you have access to the amount of money that is stated on your I-20 or DS-2019.

 Entering the US:
- DO NOT use a B-1 or B-2 Tourist Visa to enter the US.
- If you are entering the US as a B-2, MAKE SURE THAT THEY PUT THE FOLLOWING ON THE BACK OF THE I-94 CARD: “Prospective Student”. If you enter this way, you will have to do a change of status to either the F-1 or J-1 Visa. You will be able to do this through the mail, however may take 6 months or more to get it approved and you CAN NOT begin studying until INS has approved the Change of Status.
- Have all of your paperwork with you in your carry-on luggage. This paperwork includes:
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Passport
  - Visa Stamp
  - Immunization record (if required)
  - I-94 card that you filled out on the airplane.

 Special Tips:
- Immigration Officers have the right to ask about the purpose of your stay (to obtain a degree & return home), and about the items on your entry document (proof of sufficient funds).
- Filling out the I-94 card, print the requested information on the card using letters & numbers “American Style”.
- Do not hesitate to ask one of the Flight Attendants for assistance if you have any questions.
- The Immigration Officer will put a red stamp on your I-94 card giving the date of your arrival, the place of arrival and your visa classification.
- Ask the Immigration Officer to staple the I-94 card across from your visa in your passport, if they do not do it automatically.
CANADIAN STUDENTS

⚠️ No Visa Stamp required:
- Students from Canada entering the US in either the F-1 or J-1 immigration status DO NOT need to go to the US Embassy or Consular’s Office to obtain a US Visa Stamp.

➡️ Entering the US:
- DO NOT enter as a Tourist.
- You MUST enter the US using either your I-20 or your DS-2019.
- Present to the Immigration Inspector the following:
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Birth Certificate OR Passport
  - Financial verification

⚠️ Special Tips:
- It is EXTREMELY important for the Inspector at the border to place a red stamp on your document and issues you an I-94 card (this card will also have the red stamp on it).

🔥 If the Immigration Inspector does not put the stamp on your I-20 and issue you an I-94 card, then you have entered in a Tourist status and it will be illegal for you to study in the US.

STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE U.S.

⚠️ You must complete a transfer form if you are currently studying at another U.S. educational institution.
- See enclosed transfer information and form for more information.

IMMIGRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

⚠️ Student’s Responsibilities & How to Maintain Your Status
- Attend the school listed on the I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) which you used to enter the United States.
- Maintain full-time status for the academic year. Students here at OU may take spring and summer semesters off as vacation.
- Complete an Under Enrollment Status Report Form from the International Students and Scholars Office if you unable to maintain full-time status.
- Keep your passport valid at all times.
• Work with USCIS authorization.
• Have your I-20 endorsed every 6 months by ISSO at OU.
• **Never allow your SEVIS I-20 to expire.**

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🌟 **Current status & future status:**

• Remember, it is your responsibility as an International Student to maintain both your *immigration* and *academic* status. If you have any questions or concerns related to your immigration status, contact ISSO.

• Keep copies of all of your immigration documents in a safe place. *Always retain the originals* and copies of old documents in case you need them for future reference.

• You might need to show proof that you maintained your student status if you apply for another visa type or permanent residency in the future.