

Welcome to Portland State University New Student Orientation



Office of International Student and Scholar Services

East Hall Room 101

Phone: 503-725-4094

Fax: 503-725-5320

oia@pdx.edu

www.oia.pdx.edu

Open 8am – 5pm Monday - Friday

SEVIS

- SEVIS stands for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
- SEVIS is a database which contains information about every international student in the United States
- The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) is required to make quarterly reports to SEVIS report
- Any changes in your academic status must be reported to ISSS immediately
- Address Changes must be reported to PSU within 10 days of moving –www.banweb.pdx.edu

Your Immigration Documents

- PASSPORT – must be valid 6 months into the future
- VISA – may expire while in the U.S.
- I-94 CARD – indicates status
- I-20 – may NOT expire while you are here

These documents are YOUR responsibility

Full-time Enrollment

Undergraduates = 12 credits per term

Graduates = 9 grad level credits per term

Post-Baccalaureate UG = 12 cr per term

PB Grad = 9 but only IF at least one class is
a 3 or 4 credit graduate level class

Co-Enrollment

F1 students may take classes at two institutions simultaneously! It's easy –

- Take at least 2 courses at PSU
- Take 1, 2 or more classes at another institution
- Bring your course schedule from the other institution to the ISSS at the start of each term
- Bring grades from the other school to the ISSS at the end of each term

Course Restrictions

No more than 3 credits of distance education or online courses count towards full-time enrollment each term.

Audit, M, and X grades do not count towards full-time enrollment

Reduced Courseload

A reduction in the number of required credits may be allowed in the following situations:

Final Term of Study:

Students may be enrolled part time during their last term of study. This must be authorized by an ISSS advisor.

Graduate thesis/dissertation/project:

Graduate students may be excused from full-time enrollment once all coursework is finished (this includes core, elective, and seminar coursework) if engaged in thesis or dissertation research or writing. This must be authorized by both an academic and an international student advisor.

Reduced Courseload, cont.

Additional reasons for under enrollment include

Academic Reasons:

A student may be authorized for 1 term of under-enrollment per degree program due to compelling academic reasons.
Students must stay enrolled half-time.

Medical Reasons:

Students can be authorized for up to 12 months of reduced course load due to medical reasons. This must be supported by documentation from either a Medical Doctor, an Osteopath or a Licensed Clinical Psychologist .

Grace Period

When you *graduate* you are allowed to stay in the United States for **60 days**

If *withdraw* from a program of study early, you are allowed to stay in the United States for **15 days**

Vacation Term

- One term of vacation is allowed per year
- PSU students usually take summer term off
- Students admitted in Winter or Spring terms MAY take summer off
- Alternate vacation terms may be possible – please see your international student advisor before you do not enroll!

Travel Signature

- Your I-20 must be signed if you wish to re-enter the United States
- This signature verifies that you are maintaining your immigration status
- Your F-1 visa must be valid when you re-enter, unless you are traveling to Mexico or Canada for fewer than 30 days

Maintenance of Status



Keep your I-20 and passport valid

Do not drop below full-time enrollment

Notify ISSS of any change in your academic or personal life

Observe the designated grace periods and depart the United States within the proper time frame

Your immigration status is your own responsibility.
ALWAYS ask an ISS advisor if you have questions

We're here to help!

Reinstatement to F-1 Status

Should you fail to maintain your immigration status you may be able to regain it if you

- Can show that the violation was out of your control –illness, incorrect advice, etc.
- Apply to regain your status within five months of the time you violated it

There is no appeal for reinstatement decisions. If your application is denied, your visa will be cancelled and you will have to leave the U.S.

F-2 Dependents

If your spouse or child wants to join you, we can help!

- Dependents will be issued their own I-20s
- Your spouse may NOT study towards a degree (English classes are okay)
- Your children (usually under the age of 18) may enroll in kindergarten – high school

Transferring to Another School

If you decide to leave Portland State University,

- Apply to the other institution well in advance
- Request a Transfer Release from ISSS once you have been admitted to the new school
- Your SEVIS record will be transferred to the new school
- Finish the current term at PSU in order to remain in status

OREGON ID Card

An Oregon ID card can be used in place of your passport to verify your identity, your age and your home address.

- Request an Oregon ID card at the Division of Motor Vehicles
- You will need your passport, your SSN (if you have one), and an application
- The fee is currently \$33.50 (9/08)

Do you have QUESTIONS???

Take a look at our website, where you will find more answers – www.oia.pdx.edu

If you don't find what you are looking for there, visit East Hall 101. The office is open from 8-5 every day and advising is generally available from 1-4pm Mon-Thurs.

We look forward to helping you!