



F-1 Students on Approved Study Abroad

American University • Building a Global University • International Student and Scholar Services

Since international students on approved study abroad programs are still enrolled at AU, **there is no break in their immigration status**, even though they are physically outside the US. Therefore, F-1 visa students *must* consult with International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and obtain the required signature on their Study Abroad Application form and a travel signature on their I-20 **before** finalizing any study abroad plans.

Immigration Responsibilities While Abroad

Students on approved study abroad programs have immigration responsibilities in order to maintain their immigration status and are required to do the following during their time abroad:

- **Maintain Full-time Enrollment.** Falling below full-time will result in the termination of the student's immigration record. The minimum credit hours requirements are as follows:

Level of Study:	Credit Hours per Semester:
Undergraduate	12 credit hours
Graduate/Certificate	9 credit hours
M.B.A.	9 credit hours
LL.M.	8 credit hours
J.D.	12 credit hours
S.J.D.	8 credit hours

- **Update Current US Address on My AU Portal and on iEagle.** When students are overseas on approved study abroad, they *must* change their current US address to the ISSS office address: *410 Butler Pavilion, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8041.*

In myau.american.edu go to Academics, Personalized Links, and Contact Information Current Students.

In iEagle go to Current Student, Update Address and Contact Information.

Immigration Implications of Studying Abroad

- **Visa Renewal:** If your F-1 visa expires while you are overseas, you need to apply for a new visa before making travel plans to return to the US. Please check at the US Embassy/Consulate abroad for visa appointment and processing wait times. It is faster and recommended to renew your visa in your home country. If you plan to remain abroad after finishing your study abroad program, please contact the ISSS office immediately for advising.
- **Employment Eligibility:** F-1 immigration status is not interrupted while on approved study abroad. Students are eligible for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT) right after returning from abroad if they had spent at least one full academic semester enrolled in a full course of study in the U.S. prior to studying abroad.
- **Studying Abroad in Final Semester:** Students studying abroad in their final semester must be *physically in the US to apply for post-completion OPT*. Please consult with an ISSS advisor on the best timeline for your application.