

## F-1 Student Status

### Status Validity

Your I-20 is valid only as long as you are participating in a program through Thomas Jefferson University and pursuing the purpose of your I-20. Note that the program end date will be adjusted during your program to reflect the accurate program end date.

### I-94 Record

An I-94 is assigned to you when you enter the U.S. It confirms your program length and status. Print a copy of your I-94 by going to [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94). Enter in the appropriate information and print out a copy of it for your records. You will need the I-94 number if you wish to apply for a driver's license, a state photo I.D., or social security number.

Check your I-94 record for accuracy each time you enter the U.S.

### Passport

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months in the future. If you are in the process of renewing your passport, you must have proof of this to submit to OIA. You can renew your passport at your country's embassy or consulate in the United States.

### Duration of Status (D/S)

Duration of Status or D/S is the length of time for which you may stay in F-1 status in the United States. It is found on your admission stamp into the U.S. D/S allows you to stay in the U.S. as long as you comply with all immigration regulations. D/S is based on the completion date on your I-20, plus a 60-day grace period.

### Visa

The visa stamp in your passport allowed you to enter the United States.\* The visa expiration date is the date up to which you are permitted to enter or re-enter the United States using that particular stamp. Always enter or re-enter with the stamp that is consistent with your status. Note that the visa is **not** an indication of the length of permission to stay.

### Health Insurance

Thomas Jefferson University requires all F-1 students to maintain active health insurance and evacuation/repatriation insurance for the entirety of their program. For more information, please visit

<https://www.jefferson.edu/university/student-life-engagement/health-dental-insurance/school-sponsored-plan.html>

### Travel

When traveling internationally, you must have your I-20 signed by the Office of International Affairs only. Each signature is valid for 6 months. Without a valid signature and proper documentation, you will have problems upon re-entry into the United States.

Prior to travelling outside of the United States during your F-1 program, you are required to email OIA with your travel dates, destination, and a copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of your I-20.

Your passport must be valid for at least six (6) months past your travel dates.

Your F1 visa must be valid for re-entry into the U.S.\* If it is expired, you must renew your visa outside of the country prior to entering back into the U.S. at a U.S. consulate or embassy. For more information, visit <https://www.usembassy.gov/>

### Social Security Number

You are eligible for a social security number only if you have an employment offer. Contact OIA for a social security letter when you receive a job offer: [http://www.jefferson.edu/university/international\\_affairs/current/living\\_us/socialsecurity.html](http://www.jefferson.edu/university/international_affairs/current/living_us/socialsecurity.html)

### End of Program

If you complete your program and OPT, you will be allowed an additional 60-day period to prepare for departure from the U.S. If you would like to transfer to another school during this period, please contact OIA **before** the end of your program. If you receive authorization from OIA to withdraw from your academic program, you have 15 days to prepare to leave the U.S. *An F-1 student who does not maintain a full course of study without the approval of OIA, or fails to maintain status is not eligible for any pre-departure or pre-transfer grace period.*

\*Canadian citizens do not need a visa.

## Maintaining Your F-1 Status

1. **Keep a valid passport.** To extend your passport validity, please contact your country's embassy in the United States: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls>
2. **Attend** the school on your Form I-20.
3. **Pursue a full course of study** and make normal progress towards the completion of your degree. If for any reason, you are unable to be enrolled full-time in your program, please contact OIA immediately. *An F-1 student who fails to maintain a full course of study without the approval of OIA is not maintaining proper F-1 status and is not eligible for the pre-departure or pre-transfer grace period.*
4. **Online courses:** Only 3 credits of online courses can count toward maintaining your full-time F-1 status requirement.
5. **Extensions:** A program extension can only be granted under special circumstances. If you are having any difficulties in your academic program, please contact OIA as soon as possible.
6. **Changing Education Level or Program:** If you decide that you would like to change your field of study or change your academic level of study (e.g., from bachelor's to master's degree), you must visit OIA **before** you make any changes.
7. **Transferring Schools:** If you decide that you would like to transfer to another institution, you must visit OIA **before** you make any changes.
8. **Updates to Contact Information** must be reported within 10 days by email to [ويا@jefferson.edu](mailto:ويا@jefferson.edu) and includes changes to your address, telephone number and email address.

### **IMPORTANT!**

**Never throw away any previous I-20. Always keep every I-20 you receive in your lifetime, to prove that you legally maintained your F-1 status in the United States.**

## F-1 Employment Options

### **On-Campus Employment**

On-campus employment is defined as a workplace that distributes pay from Thomas Jefferson University. You are permitted to work up to 20 hours a week while school is in session. Full time on-campus employment is permitted during university vacation periods as long as you were enrolled full-time for the previous term and intend to be full-time the following term. **Do not accept any unauthorized employment.** In the event of economic hardship or interest in part-time practical training, please contact OIA immediately to discuss appropriate options.

### **Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**

CPT (Curricular Practical Training) allows the F-1 student to obtain paid training experience that is required for a course or degree program. If you believe that you meet the requirements, applications for CPT are available at OIA.

### **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

OPT (Optional Practical Training) allows the F-1 student to gain work experience that is directly related to the degree program for 12 months before or after the completion of studies. If you are interested in more information about Optional Practical Training, please contact OIA at the beginning of your final semester at Jefferson so we can provide guidance.

### **STEM Optional Practical Training Extension**

STEM OPT extension is a 24-month period of temporary training that directly relates to an F-1 student's program of study. This extension takes place after post-completion OPT and only for students who have a STEM eligible degree. Student can apply for STEM OPT extension 90 days prior to the end of their post-completion OPT.

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**I have read and understood the rules of maintaining F-1 Status.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date