Know the Rules!

Visit Study in the States Before You Start Your Program of Study

Welcome! Now that you have arrived in the United States, it is important that you know, understand and follow the rules for studying as an F or M student.

Check out Study in the States (StudyintheStates.dhs.gov), a resource from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to learn about government rules and important reminders for F and M students studying in the United States.

Bookmark the Study in the States Students page (StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/students) and learn how to:

- Follow employment rules for international students
- Obtain a Social Security number
- Apply for a driver's license
- Maintain your student status
- Avoid scams

Before you begin your program of study in the United States, remember to:

- **Stay in touch with your designated school official (DSO).** You should check in with your DSO no later than the program start date listed on your Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status."
- **Attend your classes.** SSome students must remain enrolled in a certain number of credits each term or semester, while others must attend class for a specific number of hours per week. If you have trouble or do not think you will complete your program by the end date on your Form I-20, speak with your DSO immediately before dropping a class or taking any further action.
- **Contact your DSO before participating in any work or training opportunity to ensure you are eligible.** If you choose to work without authorization, you will be forced to leave the United States immediately.
- **Know the rules before planning international travel.** If you travel internationally, remember to bring all necessary documents with you and hand-carry them when it is time to re-enter the United States.

You can find more information, resources and reminders at StudyintheStates.dhs.gov!

StudyintheStates.dhs.gov Facebook.com/StudyintheStates @StudyinStates