



August 2024 NEWS

And just like that, summer is over. There is an excitement in the air as all offices are preparing for the beginning of Fall 2024 later this month. Our advisors are enjoying meeting new international students during the [Immigration Check In](#) process. As you prepare for Fall, please see our Back to School Reminders, upcoming events, and general news.

Back to School Reminders

- **F-1 PROGRAM EXTENSION:** Check your I-20 end date. If it is ending August 31, 2024 and you are still studying at USF in Fall 2024, you will need to ask for a program extension. Go to iStart and select F-1 Program Extension under F-1/J-1 Student Services.
- **TRANSFER OUT:** If you plan to leave USF to attend another school in the US, you must complete the *Transfer Out eform* in iStart. In this eform, you upload the new school's forms and the acceptance letter. Our staff processes these within five business days. You must submit your transfer out eform PRIOR to the beginning of Fall semester on August 26, 2024.
- **LEAVING USF:** If your academic plans change and you decide to return home, please complete the *Authorized Early Withdrawal eform* in iStart. This allows our office to end your I-20 in a manner that would allow you to come back to the US in the future without issues. You must submit your AEW eform PRIOR to the beginning of Fall semester on August 26, 2024.
- **FALL ENROLLMENT:** Undergraduate Students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (only 3 credit hours can be online) while Graduate Students must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours (only 3 credit hours can be online). Students should take the majority of their classes at their home campus. This is the campus listed on their SEVIS I-20.
- **HOME CAMPUS AND EMPLOYMENT:** F-1 students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week in an on-campus job ONLY at their home campus. This is the campus listed on the SEVIS I-20

Workshops and Presentations

F1/J1 Status Maintenance Q&A – August 5 at 10am

Join our Current Student Team for an informative session via Microsoft Teams about the standard requirement for Program Extension, Reduce Course Load, Transferring Out, an Authorized Early Withdrawal, etc. This session welcomes all current and enrolled students holding F1 or J1 visas. <https://cglink.me/2k5/r1958921>

Optional Practical Training Q&A – August 9 at 10am

Students interested in employment after graduation as an F-1 student, should plan to join the Practical Training Advisors for a Q&A via Microsoft Teams. Students should have already reviewed the provided [OPT information](#) on the OIS website prior to attending the session. <https://cglink.me/2k5/r1947789>

F1/J1 Status Maintenance Q&A – August 22 at 10am

Join our Current Student Team for an informative session via Microsoft Teams about the standard requirement for Program Extension, Reduce Course Load, Transferring Out, an Authorized Early Withdrawal, etc. This session welcomes all current and enrolled students holding F1 or J1 visas. <https://cglink.me/2k5/r1958922>

DHS OPT STEM List Updated

On July 22, 2024, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a [Federal Register notice](#) announcing an update to the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List. They have added a new one qualifying field of study, Environmental/Natural Resource Economics (03.0204). The STEM List is used for 24-month STEM Extension OPT.

Health Insurance Fall 2024

[Student Health & Wellness Center](#) requires students to submit proof of coverage for review before August 26, 2024. Late submissions or requests for waivers will not be accepted. All questions about insurance should be directed to their office using this form - <https://form.jotform.com/212854489782168>

Hurricane Season

Hurricane Season began June 1st in Florida. We've already seen several names storms this season. USF World's [International Student Support Team](#) has developed a Hurricane Course to provide you with the tools to prepare for a potential storm. **Please plan to take the course in Canvas as soon as possible.** To access the course, LOG INTO YOUR CANVAS ACCOUNT FIRST, THEN click on this link - <https://usflearn.instructure.com/courses/1874164>

For additional information on how to build your supply kit, checking to see if you live in a flood zone, and finding your evacuation route or shelter, go to USF World's [Hurricane page](#). You can also attend **USF World's Hurricane Awareness Workshop** on August 29 from 10am to 2pm in FAO 100.

Check out the OIS Help Videos

Our staff has produced a growing number of videos to guide you on various immigration topics. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@usofficeofinternationale6953/videos> to get more information about CPT, OPT, Traveling, and Port of Entry. During the summer, we are working on adding more videos.

USF Fall 2024 Semester Important Dates

- August 23 – Last day to register for Fall classes without a late registration fee penalty
- August 26 – Fall courses begin
- August 30 - Fall drop/add ends
 - last day for residency reclassification applications
 - last day to change major for fall
 - tuition payment deadline (students without waivers, GA's, or deferments)
- September 2 – Labor Day – NO CLASSES & USF CLOSED
- September 20 – Deadline to reinstate courses cancelled for non-payment
- October 11 – Tuition payment due for GA's, students with waivers, and deferments



Join our BullsConnect Group - https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/club_signup



Office of International Services
4202 E Fowler Ave BEH 255 - Tampa, FL 33620
<https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/>

Virtual Drop-In via Teams ([E-Form](#) in [iStart](#)) - Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 11am-1pm & Thurs 1pm-2pm
Walk-in Hours Tampa Campus ([BEH Map](#)) - Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 1pm-2pm & Thurs 2pm-4pm
Visit Schedule to USF St Pete & Sarasota - <https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/contact-us.aspx>