



## Welcome

Our office is excited to share this new monthly update! It is full of immigration updates and compliance reminders. This is general information and may not apply directly to everyone.

## October NEWS

### Form I-983 Can Now Be Signed Electronically

For students applying for or approved for STEM Extension OPT, on September 18, 2023, DHS announced a change in signature requirements for the Form I-983 to include electronic signatures. SEVP will now accept the following formats:

- Physical/Wet Signature
- Electronic signatures using software programs or applications
- Electronically reproduced copies of a signature

### Cap Subject H-1B Approvals

For F-1 students with an approved change of status to H-1B with a start date of October 1, 2023, they should upload the change of status Approval Notice to iStart under *Immigration Updates – Update Visa Stamp or Status*. This will ensure the accuracy of the SEVIS record and allow our team to appropriately close out the SEVIS record. After closure, the student is no longer subject to the F-1 and OPT reporting requirements.

If the approval notice is H-1B Consulate Processing, this is not an automatic change to H-1B. The F-1 student needs to travel outside the US to a US consulate to obtain an H-1B visa stamp. Then re-enter the US using this new status. After the travel is complete, they would complete these e-forms - *Update Visa Stamp or Status* and *Update Port of Entry Stamp & I-94*. Students who have questions or concerns about their SEVIS record or approval notice can send an email to [cptopt@usf.edu](mailto:cptopt@usf.edu).

### Winter Break Closure

The university will be closed for Winter Break beginning Thursday, December 21, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024.

## USF Academic Reminders

**Applying for Spring 2024 Graduation**

Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, students can apply for graduation for Spring 2024 (May). Speak with your academic department if you feel you qualify for graduation.

### **Deferment Tuition Payment Deadline**

Students who received Fall 2023 tuition and fee deferments due to a scholarship or assistantship are required to pay their portion in full by October 6, 2023.

### **October 28 – Last Day to Withdraw**

The last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” on the transcript is October 28<sup>th</sup>. F-1 and J-1 students need OIS permission to drop below full-time! Withdrawing without permission can lead to a status violation. We recommend that students discuss their situation with our team of professional immigration advisors during virtual drop in or walk in hours.

### **Spring 2024 Course Registration**

Official registration for courses for spring semester begins October 30<sup>th</sup>. F-1 students should select mostly in-person courses at their campus of record.

## **Workshops**

### **OPT Session Dates**

Join the Practical Training Team for a Q&A session about applying for Optional Practical Training post graduation. Sessions are online from 10am to 11am on October 13 - <https://cglink.me/2k5/r1938479> and October 27 - <https://cglink.me/2k5/r1938482>.

### **CPT Session Date**

Join the Practical Training Team for a Q&A session about applying for Curricular Practical Training (used for internships). The session is online from 10am to 11am on October 17 - <https://cglink.me/2k5/r1938486>

### **USF Tampa – The Job Search Process for International Students**

On November 1, the Center for Career & Professional Development is hosting a special workshop for international students about the process of finding a job. Our professional immigration advisors will be part of this session to discuss CPT and OPT. The session is from 4pm to 5pm in MSC4200. For details - <https://careers.usf.edu/events/2023/11/01/usf-tampa-the-job-search-process-for-international-students/>

### **OIS Flag Parade in the Homecoming Parade**

All students are invited to walk with our office and carry a flag in the 2023 Running of the Bulls Homecoming Parade! The parade is Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. If you want to walk with us and carry a flag, meet us in the Theatre Arts Parking Lot (behind the MSC) by 5:30pm. For more information - [https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/rsvp\\_boot?id=1943862](https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/rsvp_boot?id=1943862)

Join our BullsConnect Group - <https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/clu>





**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>