



Maintaining your J-1 Student Status

The United States immigration laws and regulations emphasize the importance of international students in F-1 visa classification to maintain their legal status in the United States. J-1 students should be aware of and comply fully with the following compliance requirements set forth by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):

- You must maintain a valid passport at all times, unless exempt from passport requirements.
- You must attend the college/university listed on your current DS-2019.
- You must complete an official immigration transfer whenever changing educational institutions. As a J-1 student, this includes notifying your current institution of your intent to transfer, obtaining a Form DS-2019 from the new institution, and reporting to the RO at the new school within 15 days of the program start date listed on the Form DS-2019. To notify FGCU of your intent to transfer out, you need to complete a “*Transfer out of FGCU Request*” form and submit proof of admission at a new school.
- You must enroll for and complete a full course of study during Fall & Spring Semester. Full-time enrollment is defined as **9 credit hours for graduate students** and **12 credits for undergraduate students**. Undergraduate students who need to maintain 12 credit hours per semester can only count 3 credit hours of online learning to meeting this requirement. Graduate students who need to maintain 9 credit hours per semester can only count 3 credit hours of online to meeting this requirement. If a student wants to take additional online or hybrid courses during this semester, it is allowable since they have met the status requirements.
- If you wish to extend your stay at FGCU, make an appointment to meet with the International Services Office at least four weeks prior to the expiration date on your DS-2019.
- You must obtain a new Form DS-2019 **before** changing your academic program from one degree level to another (e.g., from Bachelor’s to Master’s level) or one major/field of study to another (e.g., from Civil Engineering to Nursing).
- You are allowed to work on campus, **only** up to 20 hours per week during the semester, with written authorization from FGCU’s Responsible or Alternate Responsible Officer. For an authorization letter, come to International Services Office with an employment offer letter and request a letter of employment authorization. This authorization letter must be given to your employer **prior** to your employment start date.



**Florida Gulf Coast University
Office of International Services**

- You and your J-2 dependents are required by federal law to have health insurance that includes medical evacuation and repatriation in effect for the duration of your exchange visitor status, pursuant to 22 CFR 62.14. A willful failure to carry insurance is considered to be a violation of your legal status in the U.S. and will result in immediate termination of your status, pursuant to 22 CFR 62.45(d) and (f).
- You are responsible to report any change of address or residence within 10 days of change to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Go to <https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=coa> to change online or www.uscis.gov and select “Change Address Online.”
- Remember to have International Services Office sign your DS-2019 prior to traveling outside the United States, if you intend to return. To request a signature, you need to submit your DS-2019 form for *Immigration Travel Signature* at International Services Office at least 5 days prior to the anticipated travel date. Your documents: DS-2019, passport, visa and health insurance must be current.
- If you wish to bring any accompanying dependents (spouse or children) to the United States in J-2 status, schedule an appointment with International Services to obtain a dependant DS-2019. You will need to provide International Services Office with biographical information (full name, date of birth and country of birth) along with proof of funding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change without notice. International students should contact International Services Office at 239-590-7925 to arrange an appointment to discuss any questions or concerns related to your legal status in the United States.

To remain up-to-date on changes in United States immigration law and/or changes in International Services policies and/or procedures, to be informed about events, workshops and sessions offered by International Services Office, and much more, please check out our news, announcements and information sessions posted at: www.fgcu.edu/international

“I have read the information above about maintaining my legal status in the United States and understand that I must comply fully with these regulations in order to remain in legal status. I further understand that this information is not exhaustive and that I should direct any additional questions or concerns about my legal status to a professional in the International Services Office, Reed Hall 122. Tel: 239-590-7925. E-mail: InternationalServices@Fgcu.edu”

Print Full Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

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