IMMIGRATION INFORMATION TRANSFER STUDENTS

The International Student, Scholar and Immigration Services (ISSIS) office within the Office of International Education (OIE) is pleased to welcome you to The University of Georgia (UGA). You will be joining a diverse campus that includes approximately 1,500 international students from over 100 different countries. OIE will assist you with understanding and complying with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) immigration regulations and required documentation during your stay at UGA. DHS requires us to create and maintain your Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) immigration record. U.S. regulations require you to keep us informed of any changes to your academic status, or your immigration status, so we can update your SEVIS record in a timely fashion. Our office is the best place to ask any questions you may have regarding your immigration status while in the U.S.

In order to have your SEVIS record registered when you arrive on campus, you must report to ISSIS for mandatory immigration check-in. Failure to do this could result in a termination of your SEVIS record, and your legal ability to remain in the U.S.

Transferring from another U.S. Institution:

In the F-1 student admission packet sent to you by the Admissions office is a “transfer pending I-20 Form” created from your SEVIS record. Students transferring from another institution in the US to UGA must follow the immigration process for transferring the SEVIS record from the old school to UGA. This means the transfer student must check-in with ISSIS and obtain a “continued attendance I-20 Form” from within the first 15 days of the semester. Transfer Students may check in at the Mandatory Immigration Check-in during International Student Orientation Week. Students who fail to check in risk having their SEVIS record terminated, and will not be able to remain legally in the U.S.

Mandatory Student Health Insurance:

All University of Georgia sponsored F-1 and J-1 international and exchange students are required by the Georgia Board of Regents to have medical insurance while attending UGA. The Board of Regents has strict requirements with regard to what comprises adequate medical insurance coverage in the United States and has selected a student insurance plan with Pearce & Pearce, Inc. to serve all of Georgia’s 35 public colleges and universities. Enrollment in the UGA Insurance Plan is automatic, and the cost of the insurance policy will be included on your student account upon registration for classes each semester or deducted from your assistantship stipend if you have a graduate assistantship with the University of Georgia. Students with J-1 visas who are sponsored by organizations that purchase insurance as a part of the sponsorship are qualified to apply for a waiver in addition to some other students who are covered on a spouse or parent’s employer group plan. Please see the Human Resource Benefits website at: http://www.hr.uga.edu/benefits/stuins/stuins.html for more information about the insurance policy and the waiver policy. Any insurance a student purchases before coming to the U.S. is considered supplementary to the Pearce & Pearce mandatory policy and the student will not be granted a waiver unless they complete the on-line waiver process and can document that their insurance meets the waiver eligibility requirements.

Questions??

Undergraduate students (new and transfer students from other U.S. institutions) will receive immigration documents and admission letters directly from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 201 Terrell Hall, Athens, GA 30602.
Graduate students (new and transfer students from other U.S. institutions) will receive immigration documents and admission letters directly from the Office of Graduate Admissions, 320 E. Clayton St. Suite 400, Athens, GA 30602.

**If you have ADMISSIONS-related questions, please contact these two offices directly.**

**If you have IMMIGRATION-related questions please contact an ISSIS immigration advisor at issis@uga.edu**

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**Mandatory Immigration Check-in** – All new F-1 and J-1 international students, including students transferring from other U.S. institutions, must come to the ISSIS mandatory Immigration Check-In during orientation. Please bring the following immigration documents with you to the check in session:

- I-20 or DS-2019 Form
- Passport
- I-94 card
- Visa if you have been issued one by the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

***CHECK-IN WITH OUR OFFICE IS MANDATORY UNDER FEDERAL REGULATION!***

Check-in will be held during International Student Orientation, hosted by International Student Life (ISL). More information about orientation can be found at the ISL website at: www.uga.edu/isl and in the Georgia Bound newsletter.