



How to Succeed as an International Student

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Office of International Education

Topics we will cover

- Who is ISSS?
- Immigration Documents
- Enrollment
- Updates to Status
- Practical Training/On-Campus Employment
- Social Security Number
- International Travel
- Transfers & Grace Period
- Other Things to Consider

Meet the ISSS Team



**We are International
Student & Scholar Services!**



What we do

- Share information on available resources and advocate on behalf of international students
- Provide guidance and support with visa and immigration questions
- Support practical training opportunities including options before and after graduation
- Organize events for networking, making new friends, and enhancing professional skills

Expectations

• ADVISOR'S ROLE

- Knowledgeable about immigration regulations and GT policy
- Communicate effectively and in a timely manner
- Process immigration benefit requests and updates

• STUDENT'S ROLE

- Take responsibility for your academic and immigration status
- Research and utilize OIE and GT resources (website, e-forms, handouts) to prepare before seeing an advisor
- Communicate effectively and in a timely manner (major changes to your academic or immigration status)

Know Your Immigration Documents



Passport: Proof of Identity

- Passport should be renewed 6 months prior to expiration
- Can be renewed in the United States
- Passport related questions (lost passport, incorrect passport information, passport renewal, etc.) should be asked to your home country's embassy or consulate



Form I-20: Certificate of Eligibility For F-1 Visa

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: **N0004705512**

SEVIS ID

SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME: John Doe Smith
PREFERRED NAME: John Doe Smith
COUNTRY OF BIRTH: UNITED KINGDOM
DATE OF BIRTH: 01 JANUARY
FORM ISSUE REASON: INITIAL ATTENDANCE - Updated Form I-20 of New Admission

GIVEN NAME: John
PASSPORT NAME:
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: UNITED KINGDOM
ADMISSION NUMBER:
LEGACY NAME:
CLASS: **F-1**
ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE

SEVIS Name fields added

Form Issue Reason

Class of Admission

SCHOOL INFORMATION
SCHOOL NAME: SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL: Rita Feet, International Scholar Advisor

PROGRAM OF STUDY
EDUCATION LEVEL: MAJOR 1: Economics, General 45.0401
MAJOR 2: None 05.0000
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH: 12 Months
PROGRAM START DATE: 01 SEPTEMBER 2015

FINANCIALS
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR 9 MONTHS:
Tuition and Fees: \$ 23,000
Living Expenses: \$ 6,000
Expenses of Dependents (3): \$ 3,000
Other: \$
TOTAL: \$ 32,000
STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR 9 MONTHS:
Personal Funds: \$ 3,000
Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship: \$ 29,000
Funds From Another Source: \$
On-Campus Employment: \$
TOTAL: \$ 32,000

REMARKS
Orientation begins 8/25/2015. Please report to 1200 N...

Remarks: Space for comments

Number of dependents

SCHOOL ATTESTATION
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(D)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

SIGNATURE OF: Rita Feet, International Scholar Advisor
DATE ISSUED: 05 May 2015
PLACE ISSUED: Ft. Washington, MD

STUDENT ATTESTATION
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above, and that I intend to depart the United States upon completion of my studies. I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

SIGNATURE OF: John Doe Smith
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: SIGNATURE ADDRESS (city/state or province/country) DATE

ICE Form I-20 A-B (3/31/2015)

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: **N0004705512 (F-1)** NAME: **John Doe Smith**

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION TYPE: **SEVIS ID, (Class of Admission), and Name**

EMPLOYMENT STATUS: **SEVIS ID, (Class of Admission), and Name**

EMPLOYMENT START: **SEVIS ID, (Class of Admission), and Name**

EMPLOYER NAME: **SEVIS ID, (Class of Admission), and Name**

EMPLOYER LOCATION: **SEVIS ID, (Class of Admission), and Name**

COMMENTS:

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION
REQUESTED VISA TYPE: REQUEST PETITION STATUS: RECEIPT NUMBER: BENEFIT START DATE: REQUEST DATE:

EVENT HISTORY
EVENT NAME: **Sections expand as needed to display information**

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS
AUTHORIZATION: START DATE: END DATE:

TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT
This page when properly endorsed, may be used for reentry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each certification signature is valid for one year.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL: TITLE: SIGNATURE: DATE ISSUED: PLACE ISSUED:

DSO's name does NOT pre-print on form

DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility J-1 Visa

U.S. Department of State		OMB APPROVAL NO. 1405-0119	
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATUS (J-NONIMMIGRANT)		EXPIRES: 07-31-2014 ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min *See Page 2	
1. Surname/Primary Name: Doa		Given Name: JATHA	Gender: FEMALE
Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy): 09-10-1995	City of Birth: PARIS	Citizenship Country Code: FR	Citizenship Country: FRANCE
Legal Permanent Residence Country Code: FR		Legal Permanent Residence Country: FRANCE	Position Code: 400
Primary Site of Activity: John and Mary Smith 9650 MAIN ST FAIRFAX, VA 22031-3748		Position: CATEGORY - THE ARTS AND SPORTS	
2. Program Sponsor: ACME AU PAIR		Program Number: P-1-16489	
Purpose of this form: Replace a DS-2019 form (Damaged)			
3. Form Covers Period: From (mm-dd-yyyy): 01-10-2016 To (mm-dd-yyyy): 01-10-2017		4. Exchange Visitor Category: AU PAIR	
5. During the period covered by this form, the total estimated financial support (in U.S. \$) to be provided to the exchange visitor by: Sponsor: Program Sponsor: \$0.00 Personal: Funds: \$2,500.00 Total: \$2,500.00		SubjectField Code Remarks: subject/field remarks	
6. DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONSUL OFFICE OR ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE		Alternate Responsible Officer: Name of Officer: 1300 W Main St. New York, NY 10010 Title: 202-632-9321 Telephone Number: 01-12-2016 Date (mm-dd-yyyy):	
8. Statement of Responsible Officer for Releasing Sponsor (FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAM) Effective date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ Transfer of this exchange visitor from program number _____ sponsored by _____ to the program specified in item 2 is necessary or highly desirable and is in conformity with the objectives of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended.			
PRELIMINARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONSUL OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER REGARDING SECTION 212(a) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL 94-484, AS AMENDED (see item 1 (a) of page 2).		TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER (Maximum validation period is 1 year*)	
The Exchange Visitor in the above program: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Not subject to the two-year residence requirement. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Subject to two-year residence requirement based on: A. <input type="checkbox"/> Government financing and/or B. <input type="checkbox"/> The Exchange Visitor Status List and/or C. <input type="checkbox"/> PL 94-484 as amended.		(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: (2) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer:	
Name: _____ Title: _____ Signature of Consul or Immigration Officer: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____		Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____	
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING 212 (a).			
EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement in item 2 on page 2 of this document.			
Signature of Applicant: _____ Place: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____		Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____	

SEVIS ID

Program Dates

212 (e) Two Year Home Residency Decision

ARO Travel Authorization

F-1 Visa: Entry Permit

- Analogy: Key to enter the U.S.
- Can Expire while Inside the U.S.
- Renewal required for re-entry after international travel
- Must apply for renewal outside the U.S.
- Transfer Students: Initial school will be listed – This is okay



I-94 Form - Arrival/Departure Record

Access I-94 at
<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>

- The following information is required to retrieve your Admission (I-94) number. Enter the information as it appears on the travel documents you used to enter the United States.
 - Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Passport Number
 - Country
- You will need to print your I-94 form in order to show it at the Social Security Office, Department of Driver Services, or apply for certain immigration benefits, etc.



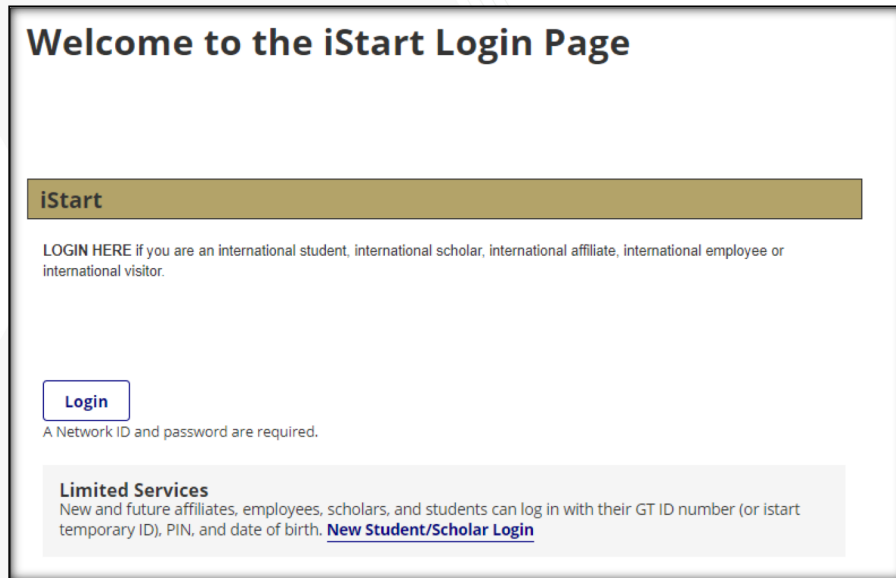
The screenshot shows the I-94 form interface. At the top, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection logo and the text "Securing America's Borders" are visible. Below this, the heading "Most Recent I-94" is underlined. The form displays the following information: Admission (I-94) Record Number: [REDACTED], Most Recent Date of Entry: 2014 August 09, Class of Admission: J1, and Admit Until Date: D/S. A section titled "Details provided on the I-94 Information form:" follows, containing: Last/Surname: [REDACTED], First (Given) Name: [REDACTED], Birth Date: 1989 May 25, Passport Number: [REDACTED], and Country of Issuance: Sweden.

Most Recent I-94	
Admission (I-94) Record Number:	[REDACTED]
Most Recent Date of Entry:	2014 August 09
Class of Admission:	J1
Admit Until Date:	D/S
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:	
Last/Surname:	[REDACTED]
First (Given) Name:	[REDACTED]
Birth Date:	1989 May 25
Passport Number:	[REDACTED]
Country of Issuance:	Sweden

istart.gatech.edu

- **iStart is a software application used to:**

- Maintain an electronic file for each student
- Update student records in SEVIS, the database that manages all international students in the United States
- Efficiently manage requests by international students, GT faculty, and GT administration



The screenshot shows the iStart Login Page. At the top, it says "Welcome to the iStart Login Page". Below this is a gold bar with the text "iStart". Underneath the bar, it says "LOGIN HERE if you are an international student, international scholar, international affiliate, international employee or international visitor." There is a "Login" button. Below the button, it says "A Network ID and password are required." At the bottom, there is a section titled "Limited Services" which says "New and future affiliates, employees, scholars, and students can log in with their GT ID number (or istart temporary ID), PIN, and date of birth. [New Student/Scholar Login](#)".

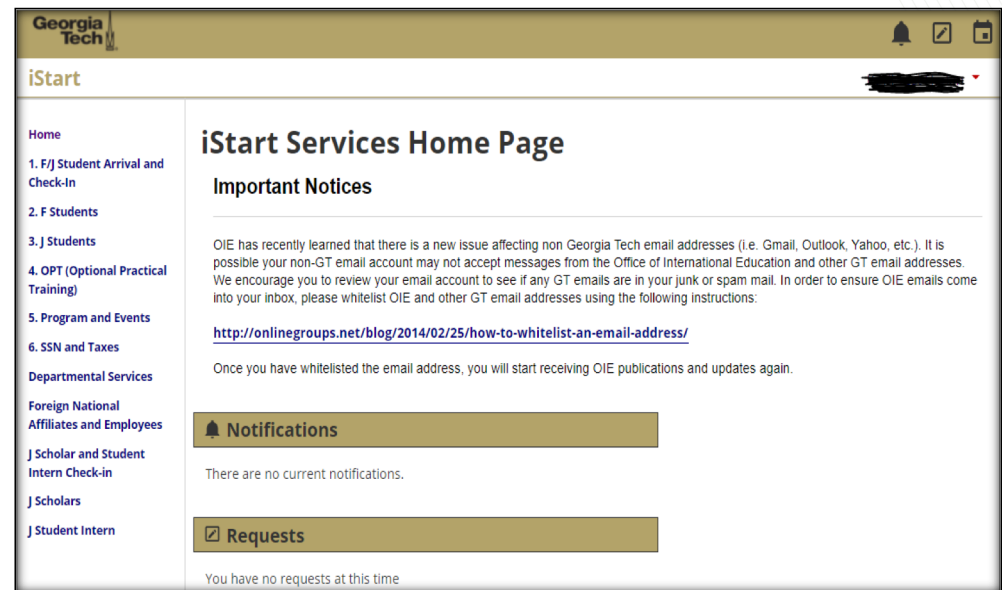
Updates

Address in iStart

- Personal information update e-form
- Within 10 days of change

I-20 changes

- Program Extension
- Change of Major
- Change of Degree Level
- Financial Updates
- Adding dependents



Enrollment

- F-1 student visa holders are required by federal regulations to enroll full-time each term.
- Full-time enrollment at Georgia Tech is 12 credit hours.
 - F-1 and J-1 student visa holders inside the U.S. should plan to engage in primarily residential instruction counting no more than 3 credit hours of fully at a distance coursework towards the full-time requirement.
 - Undergraduate students are not able to utilize audit hours to count towards their full-time enrollment of 12 credits. Graduate students can register for up to 3 audit hours as part of their 12 hour required minimum.
- "Normal Progress" Towards Completion of Studies
- Unless the Summer semester is your first or last term inside the U.S., F-1 student visa holders are not required to enroll full-time during the Summer as it is considered a vacation period.

Reduced Course Load

- **Must be Authorized by OIE –**
Do not drop below 12 credits until approved

Reasons for RCL:

- Graduation Semester
- Medical Reasons
- Academic Difficulties in 1st semester – *case by case basis*

Academic success requires...

- Engagement in class
- Frequent study
- Time management
- Maintaining student visa status
- Complying with the student code of conduct
- Wellness and self-care: Resources at <https://oie.gatech.edu/issf/fillyourcup>

Year 1 Employment

- On-Campus Employment is Permitted
 - Eligible for 20 hours or less of on-campus work during required academic terms (fall and spring).
 - May work additional hours during summer and winter break periods. Please verify with HR the limit during breaks.
 - Not eligible to continue on-campus employment after graduation without OPT.
- Off-Campus Employment is Not Permitted
- After 1 academic year of Active F-1 status, you may be eligible for CPT or OPT
 - Fall + Spring = 1 Academic Year/Summer does not count

Practical Training/Academic Training

F-1 Student Visa Holders

- Practical Training is a benefit of the F-1 student visa status.
- Two types exist:
 - **CPT** - Curricular Practical Training
 - **OPT** - Optional Practical Training
- Eligible after one year of full-time academic study at GT

J-1 Student Visa Holders

- Academic Training is a benefit of the J-1 student visa status.
- Two types exist:
 - Academic Training during degree program
 - Academic Training after degree program
- Eligible immediately after joining GT

F-1 and J-1 student visa holders must receive authorization from OIE before engaging in any activities in a paid or non-paid status for practical training benefits or Academic Training.

Social Security Number

- Anyone employed in the United States must have a Social Security Number
- iStart E-form request
 - Found under SSN and Taxes - **SSA Assistance Request** for appointments in the Atlanta area
 - OIE will liaison with the SSA and reach out once your appointment has been scheduled
- Submit application in person to local Social Security Administration (SSA) Office
- Documents to take to your appointment:
 - **Passport**
 - **I-94 print out**
 - **Current I-20/DS-2019**
 - **Letter of employment on letterhead**

**Processing time for a Social Security Number can be anywhere from 4-6 weeks,
be sure to request your application receipt**

International Travel

- **Required Documents for Reentry into the U.S.**
 - Travel Signature on I-20/DS-2019 (valid for 1 year)
 - Valid F-1 or J-1 Visa
 - Passport - valid at least 6 months into the future

*Some international travel may be eligible for Automatic Visa Revalidation, see [Department of State](#) for more info.

- **Request Travel Signature at least 2 weeks prior to travel: istart.gatech.edu**
- **For more information, visit:**
 - <https://iss.oie.gatech.edu/content/travel-outside-us-0>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

Grace Period F-1 Student Visa Holders

- **Options for F-1 Student Visa Holders after program completion in their 60 Day Grace Period**
 1. Transfer
 2. Change Degree Level
 3. Apply for Work Authorization (OPT, if eligible)
 4. Change Status
 5. Depart the U.S.

Grace Period J-1 Exchange Visitors

Before program completion:

- You must request Academic Training prior to the program end date (graduation date) on your DS-2019.
- A Job offer in your field of study is required to request Academic Training.
- The Academic Training must begin within 30 days of your program end date.

After program completion:

- J-1 Visa Holders are eligible to remain inside the U.S. for a 30 day grace period after the program end date on the DS-2019.
- During this time, J-1 visa holders are ineligible to work or study, but are free to travel domestically within the U.S.
- If you depart the U.S. during the grace period, you will need a different visa or ESTA approval to re-enter the U.S.

Other Things to Consider

- [Taxes](#)
- [Health Insurance](#)
- [Federal](#) and [State Laws](#)
- [Scams/Identity Theft](#)
- [Tobacco & Smoke Free Campus](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

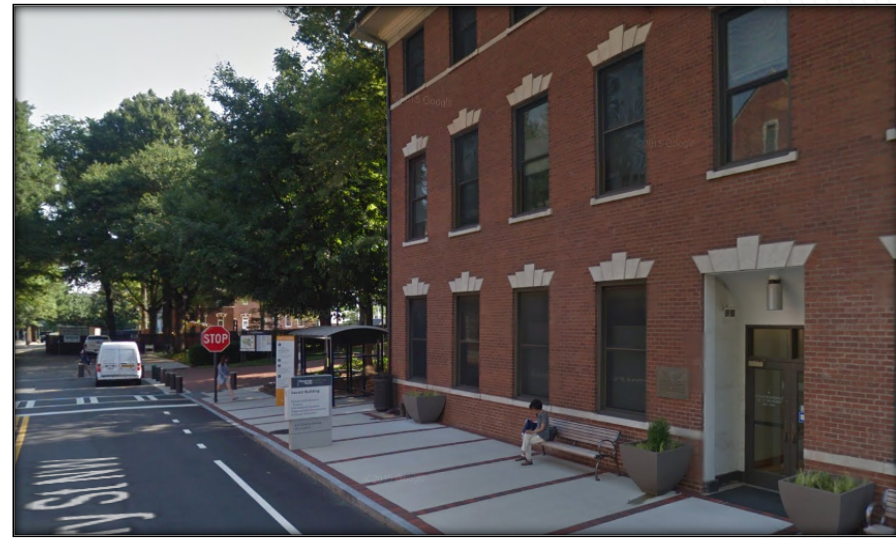


Important Reminders

- Enroll in at least 12 credit hours by **Friday, January 14, 2021 – 4:00PM**
- Choose classes carefully. F-1 and J-1 student visa holders inside the U.S. should plan to engage in primarily residential instruction counting no more than 3 credit hours of fully at a distance coursework towards the full-time requirement.
- GT Email: Check it! It is the official method of communication.
- Bursar's bill must be settled by **Tuesday, January 18, 2021 - 4:00PM**: <http://bursar.gatech.edu/>.

Office of International Education

- **Website:** <https://oie.gatech.edu/>
- **Virtual Advising:**
isssoie.gatech.edu/content/isssoie-advising
 - Appointments
 - Drop-in Advising
 - ISSS Virtual Assistant
- **Email:** info@oie.gatech.edu



Upcoming OIE & Georgia Tech Events!

- Check out our Instagram and use the link in our bio to introduce yourself by answering a few quick questions! @gt_iss
- Welcome Party for International Students and Scholars
 - January 27th: 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Stay Connected, Get Involved

• Get Involved

- [OIE Programs](#)
- [GT International Ambassadors](#)
- [Center for Student Engagement \(student orgs\)](#)
- [AMIS \(amis-inc.org\)](#)

• Stay Connected

- iBuzz Newsletter



- @gt_iss



- oie.gatech.edu



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**We hope you have an enjoyable and
successful experience at the
Georgia Institute of Technology!**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES,
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Office of International Education
oie.gatech.edu**