HIRING & HOSTING international SCHOLARS
Meet IU's International Scholar Advising Team

OIS is your primary resource for all matters relating to visa regulations. Our scholar advisors and front desk staff are here to help with all of your immigration issues, questions, and more, including:

- Immigration documents for scholars and their dependent family members
- Mandatory J-1 health insurance enrollment
- Travel signatures, financial issues, university resources, etc.

We also provide events and ongoing programs to support a scholar’s transition to Bloomington and American culture. Find details at ois.iu.edu/events. If your scholar has an event that they want to promote, contact us!

International faculty, staff, and visitors have several non-immigrant visa options, Joanna Snyder can help you decide which one is most appropriate for each case.

J-1 Exchange Visitors

Professors and researchers (up to 5 years), or short-term scholars (6 months or less), invited for research, teaching, or collaborating. Visitors from partner institutions will generally use the J-1 visa category.

The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program is to increase mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and people of other countries through educational and cultural exchange. Allow a minimum of 3 months for the J-1 process.

J-1 Student Interns

Students pursuing a degree in their home country who require an internship in order to complete the degree program. Allow a minimum of 3 months for the J-1 process.

H-1B Employees

Professional staff, research, or teaching positions that require a bachelor’s degree or higher in a specific field (up to 6 years). Average processing time is 6 months.

B1/B2 or WB/WT Visitors

Short-term visitors may enter the U.S. in business or tourist status if the business activities are strictly limited to consulting, negotiating contracts or partnership agreements, attending scientific or educational conferences and seminars, attending short-term training, or undertaking independent research.

Other (TN, E-3, O-1)

There are several other statuses for employment that are less common. OIS will suggest one of these statuses if appropriate. Average processing time varies by visa type, but in general takes 3-6 months.
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advise on visa type and immigration regulations
- Prepare/obtain/maintain visa document
- Offer new scholar orientation
- Monitor compliance (wage paid, health insurance, etc)
- Monitor changes in policy/law and communicate with scholars and departments
- Provide travel/visa stamp advice
- Assist with adjustment concerns; provide information about programming, safety, health insurance

IU DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Contact OIS to determine visa type
- Submit Add New Person HRMS eDoc
- Initiate Hire eDoc or Academic No Pay eDoc
- Complete Atlas form as advised
- Provide support for arrival, including transportation from airport to campus, and housing arrangements
- Help with computing account set-up
- Assist with adjustment concerns; provide information about programming, safety, health insurance

QUICK LINKS

OIS Resources for IU Departments
ois.iu.edu/connect

Visas for Faculty, Staff & Visitors
ois.iu.edu/scholars

Departmental Hiring and Hosting
ois.iu.edu/hosting

Scholar Guidebook (PDF)
ois.iu.edu/scholarguide
Scholar must report to OIS within 10 days of arrival in the U.S. and attend a mandatory orientation session where their immigration record will be validated.

Arrival & Check-In

Scholar must report to OIS within 10 days of arrival in the U.S. and attend a mandatory orientation session where their immigration record will be validated.

J-1 employees are eligible for SSN only after immigration validation.
H-1B

Consult with OIS
- Department contacts OIS to determine appropriate visa type.

Get ID #
- Department completes the Add New Person HRMS e-Doc to get IU ID number.

Atlas
- Department fully completes H-1B form in Atlas and submits.

OIS Review
- Once form is submitted, allow 5 days for review.

LCA
- OIS files a Labor Condition Application with DOL. Allow 7 days for processing.

Prevailing Wage
- OIS submits a Prevailing Wage request to Department of Labor. Processing times vary with an average of 12 weeks.

Request for Evidence
- Occasionally USCIS requests evidence from OIS. If this happens, we contact the department and/or employee if assistance is needed to respond to USCIS.

USCIS Decision
- Premium Processing: two weeks* | Regular Processing: varies*
- OIS receives the final decision and notifies department and employee.

*Contact OIS for processing times.

H-1B Processing
- OIS contacts department or employee for additional documentation.
- OIS assembles and mails H-1B application to USCIS. Allow 5 days for processing.
- IU department and employee receive a copy of the filed application via email.
OVPGC

Department submits PR form in Atlas. OIS reviews case and makes a recommendation regarding processing.

OIS

OIS works with department/employee to document the initial advertising and hiring process.

Labor Certification

OIS files Labor Certification with DOL. Processing times vary, but generally DOL adjudicates within 6 months.

Standard

Labor Certification

OVPGC works with department to re-advertise the position, documenting there are no qualified U.S. citizens or permanent residents for the position.

With a successful labor test, OVPGC files Labor Certification with DOL. Processing times vary, but DOL generally adjudicates within 6 months.

I-140

OVPGC files I-140 with USCIS for adjudication within 2 weeks-6 months.

Outstanding

I-140

OIS files I-140 with USCIS for adjudication within 2 weeks-6 months.

Outstanding

I-140

OIS files I-140 with USCIS for adjudication within 2 weeks-6 months.

Special Handling

I-140

OIS files I-140 with USCIS for adjudication within 2 weeks-6 months.

Labor Certification

OIS works with department/employee to document the initial advertising and hiring process.

I-485

With approved I-140, employee files the I-485 petition with USCIS to adjust PR status if priority date is available. There is usually a backlog for applicants born in India or China. I-485 is generally adjudicated within 8-10 months.