



October 2024 NEWS

USF Homecoming Week is this month! We hope that you find time to enjoy this American tradition. Go to <https://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/homecoming/> for schedules. See below about joining our entry in the 2024 Running with the Bulls Homecoming Parade on October 18.

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, 2024, 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.

Immigration Document Update

If you update your passport, get a new visa, or travel outside the US, you need to update iStart with your new documents. Go to *Immigration Updates* and select *Update Passport, Update Visa, or Update I-94*. Updating these documents allows our office to best assist you in maintaining your immigration status.

GoinGlobal Webinars

[GoinGlobal](#) is an online resource for career resources around the world. On October 24 from 3-4pm, they are offering a webinar called *Get the Real Facts on US Work Visas*, you can register for this webinar here - <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3912512512716057439>

Hurricane Season

We are still in Hurricane Season. ***In the event of a storm, OIS will email your USF email with instructions. F-1 and J-1 students must use a special eform in iStart to Check in Pre and Post Storm.*** Please stay prepared for any storms by going to USF World's [Hurricane page](#) and taking USF World's **Hurricane Course** in Canvas. To access the course, log into your canvas account first, then click on this link - <https://usflearn.instructure.com/courses/1874164>

Tax Help Session

Our Tax Intern is offering two weekly tax help sessions this semester: one online and one in person. **Wednesday:** 5:30pm - 6:30pm (In person at BEH 255) and **Thursday:** 1:30pm - 3:00pm (Online). Book the online session [here](#). For updated tax information, please visit our website [here](#).

Homecoming Parade

Join us for our Flag Walking Entry during the 2024 Running of the Bulls Homecoming Parade! The parade is on Friday, October 18th at 6:30pm. We have a set of 147 flags for participants to carry. Participation is open to any student, faculty, staff, international scholar, or family member. This is a very kid-friendly event.

How can you participate?

- Meet OIS in the Theatre Arts Parking Lot 3A, 3B, and 3C (behind the MSC) between 5:00pm and 6:00pm.
- Flags are distributed on a first come, first serve basis. No "reserving" a flag ahead of time. Participants exchange their USF ID for a flag. IDs are returned once the parade has concluded.
- The parade starts promptly at 6:30pm and will conclude between 7:30-8:00pm.
- Wear comfy walking shoes, and try to wear some USF green and gold if possible.
- Register at <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1968281> Questions? Contact OIS at internationalservices@usf.edu.

Workshops and Presentations

F1/J1 Status Maintenance Q&A – October 7 at 10am

Join our Current Student Team for an informative session via Microsoft Teams about the standard requirements for Program Extension, Reduce Course Load, Transferring Out, an Authorized Early Withdrawal, etc. This session welcomes all current and enrolled students holding F1 or J1 visas. <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1958927>

Optional Practical Training Q&A –October 11 at 10am

Students interested in employment after graduation as an F-1 student, should plan to join the Practical Training Advisors for a Q&A via Microsoft Teams. Students should have already reviewed the provided [OPT information](#) on the OIS website prior to attending the session. <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1961690>

Curricular Practical Training Q&A –October 15 at 10am

For students interested in completing an internship during their studies during Spring or Summer 2025. Join the Practical Training Advisors for a Q&A via Microsoft Teams. Students should have already reviewed the [CPT information](#) on the OIS website prior to attending the session. <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1962467>

F1/J1 Status Maintenance Q&A – October 17 at 10am

Join our Current Student Team for an informative session via Microsoft Teams about the standard requirements for Program Extension, Reduce Course Load, Transferring Out, an Authorized Early Withdrawal, etc. This session welcomes all current and enrolled students holding F1 or J1 visas. <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1958928>

Optional Practical Training Q&A –October 25 at 10am

Students interested in employment after graduation as an F-1 student, should plan to join the Practical Training Advisors for a Q&A via Microsoft Teams. Students should have already reviewed the provided [OPT information](#) on the OIS website prior to attending the session. <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1961691>

F1/J1 Status Maintenance Q&A – October 28 at 10am

Join our Current Student Team for an informative session via Microsoft Teams about the standard requirements for Program Extension, Reduce Course Load, Transferring Out, an Authorized Early Withdrawal, etc. This session welcomes all current and enrolled students holding F1 or J1 visas. <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1958929>

Winter Break Closure

The university will be closed for Winter Break Monday, December 23 2024 through Friday, January 3, 2025. Spring Semester 2025 begins on Monday, January 13, 2025.

Check out the OIS Help Videos

Our staff has produced a growing number of videos to guide you on various immigration topics. Go [here](#) to view.

USF Fall 2024 Semester Important Dates

- October 4 – Deadline for on-time graduation application for Fall 2024.
- October 7-22 – MIDTERMS
- October 11 – Tuition payment due for GA's, students with waivers, and deferments



Join our BullsConnect Group - https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/club_signup



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>