

International Center Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is considered full-time enrollment for an international student?

If you are holding an F1 or J1 visa and are pursuing a Bachelor's degree, you need to have 12 units per quarter to maintain your visa status. For a master's degree the requirement is 8 units.

2. What if my visa expires?

If your visa has expired but you maintain the status of a full-time student, you may stay in the United States. You will need to renew your visa at your country's Consulate or Embassy in the U.S. Provide that agency with transcripts, a letter from the International Center and I-20 form. Check with the International Center for other documents that might be required with respect to your particular home country. You may leave and re-enter the U.S. with an expired visa **ONLY** if you travel to Canada or Mexico and for no longer than 30 days.

3. What financial support do I need to maintain the F1/J1 status?

You must have evidence that you have sufficient funds. At the beginning of Fall quarter 2008, F1 students need to have \$21,600 (undergraduate student), and \$19,400 (graduate student). The concrete figures are subject to change.

For J1, you need to have at least \$4,500 each quarter.

4. What do I need to do if I want to change my major or degree?

You need to notify the International Center immediately for such changes. There is a special form you can obtain from the International Center office. You will also need to contact your Academic Advisor for advising regarding your change of major.

5. What shall I do if my address or names are changed while I am an international student at Cal Poly Pomona?

You are required to report these changes within 10 days to both the International Center and the USCIS, so that BroncoDirect can be updated.

6. Can I travel as an F1/J1 visa student?

Yes, there are no restrictions on domestic travel. If you plan to travel abroad, you must contact the International Center Student Advisors at least one week before your trip to obtain a travel signature on your I-20/DS2019 form.

7. Am I eligible to work as an international student?

Yes, F1 and J1 are eligible to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week. Working on-campus requires quarterly enrollment in an internship class at Cal Poly Pomona and is

subject to re-application each quarter. You do not need to fill out a form with the International Center. If you decide though to get employed on campus through the Foundation, you will need to fill out a form with the International Center.

After completing one academic year and maintaining your F1 status, you can work off-campus with a special authorization from a designated official from the International Center. This is an internship opportunity known as Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and is subject to approval by an Internship coordinator in your department. CPT should be related to your academic study. Employment in the U.S. requires having a social security number. Look for further information at the International Center.

8. Can I work in the U.S. after I graduate?

F1 students only:

When you approach the end of your study (before your last quarter is over) you can apply for a post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) and to receive up to 12 months employment authorization from the USCIS to work in areas directly related to your major. If you choose to apply for a pre-completion OPT, and later are involved in post-completion OPT, the pre-completion OPT periods will be deducted from the available periods of post-completion OPT.

Students with a major in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, who are applying for a post-completion OPT and whose prospective employer is registered with E-Verify system, are eligible to apply for a 17 month extension.

J1 students only:

You can apply for an internship after your exchange program. The length is determined by the amount of quarters you took classes at Cal Poly Pomona. Example, if you are enrolled in school for one quarter, you are allowed only one quarter of internship.

9. When can I apply for OPT?

F1 students only:

You should apply before your final quarter is over. The application process requires you to fill out an employment authorization Form I-765 with the International Center. Final approval is made by USCIS. Please refer to the special hand-out about OPT issued by the International Center.

10. Do I have an opportunity to participate in club or other activities as an international student?

Yes, you are strongly encouraged to do that. There are several International Student Clubs on campus in addition to many other club activities. Check with the International Center.

11. Can I visit the International Center any time of the day or do I need to make a special appointment?

Walk in hours for questions:

Monday through Friday 10:00 AM -12:00 PM and 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Appointments with Judy Mitchell:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Appointments with Kelly McCullen

Tuesday – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Thursday – 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM