International Student Orientation Program 2022

ISO International Services Office

International Student Orientation Program

Welcome!

The University of Rochester
Melors (Ever Better)

Rochester, New York
Flour City / Flower City

The United States of America
E Pluribus Unum
Out of Many, One
Land of Opportunity

Global Engagement
Learn, discover, heal, create — And make the world
Ever Better.

Within the Office for Global Engagement, the International Services Office (ISO) provides services to UR’s various international populations and the departments that support them.

Student Services
- Immigration advising on F-1 & J-1 students
- Counseling on various personal, academic, financial & other issues
- Authorizations for work, extensions, and related program changes.

Support & Engagement
- Orientation, workshops, learning opportunities
- Social events, trips, community activities
- Coordination for SSN eligibility & tax support
- Input & feedback, ISSAB
- Assessment of programs

Scholar & Employee Services
- Immigration advising on J-1, H-1B, TN, D, etc.
- Counseling on various personal, academic, financial & other issues
- Authorizations for work, extensions, and related program changes.

System & Communications
- SEVIS reporting & coordination between UR Student, HRMS, and other UR data systems
- Support for URcompass client portal, institutional reporting, campus notifications, etc.

ISO Services & Hours – As of 9/1/22

ISO Office Hours & Service Desk: General inquiries, document requests, etc.
9:00am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm – 4:00pm | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
585-275-2866 | questions@iso.rochester.edu

College Town: 40 Celebration Drive, Suite 1.100 (by Breathe Yoga & UR Dermatology)

Virtual Drop-In Advising Hours: Brief consultation on basic student issues
10:00am – 4:00pm | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
10:00am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm – 2:00pm | Friday
Zoom Link: https://rochester.zoom.us/j/iso-virtual-dropins

Individual Advising Appointments: 30-minute meeting on various topics
Available virtually or in-person at College Town, during standard office hours
Appointments must be scheduled in advance, usually at least 1 business day

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Visit ISO Online: Additional resources & info whenever you need them!
www.iso.rochester.edu | Blackboard: TIPS On-Demand | URcompass portal

International Services Office, University of Rochester
Welcome to the University of Rochester
We are glad that you are here!

YOU are the reason, we are ... EVER BETTER

Meeting Overview

- Maintaining Immigration Status
- Enrollment & Study in the US
- Employment in the US
- Participant Questions

Submit your questions via the Q&A tool!

Case-specific inquiries to: questions@iso.rochester.edu

Target Audience:

New international students who have arrived or confidently will arrive in the US/Rochester for Fall 2022

Focus: Current immigration requirements for F-1/J-1 students

Introducing ...

Meliora ROCstar

You are responsible for your own IMMIGRATION STATUS

(NO “But my friend said ...”)

Life impacts your immigration!

As one of our newest international students, Meliora is excited to join the University of Rochester this Fall! She is a citizen of Dandeland and was recently enrolled at another US school before transferring her F-1 SEVIS record to UR. She remembers from ISO’s Pre-arrival Orientation that she will need to maintain her immigration status at UR.
Which document establishes Meliora’s F-1 student status in the US?

a) Her Form I-20, issued by ISO with a start date of 8/31/2022
b) Her unexpired visa sticker with validity dates of 1/7/2018 to 1/6/2024
c) Her electronic I-94 record, showing her last entry was 8/14/2022
d) This depends on Meliora’s current location, enrollment, reporting, etc.

ISO Website:

ISO Website: https://urcompass.ur.rochester.edu/

Welcome to ISO’s Client Portal Login Page

Submit your Immigration Check-In • Report a new address
Upload ISO Forms • Request an I-20/DS-2019 travel signature
Additional URcompass functionality is coming ... !!!

Enrollment & Study in the US

Shortly after her arrival in Rochester, Meliora completed her Immigration Check-In forms through URcompass and is maintaining valid immigration status as an F-1 student. She is excited to join UR and there are several classes she is interested in taking for the Fall term. She remembers that full-time registration at the University of Rochester every academic term is necessary to maintain her F-1 status. However, with recent UR approval for academic transfer credit from her previous school, Meliora is feeling a little unsure about her enrollment requirements.
**What should Meliora do to satisfy her enrollment requirements this term?**

- a) Discuss her specific course selections with ISO in advance
- b) Limit her registration to 1 online class toward full-time study
- c) Maintain 9 credits at UR, at least until the Add/Drop period
- d) Combine transfer credit and UR courses to total 12 credits or more

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**COVID-19 Temporary Guidance**

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy may offer some additional flexibility, if eligible & academically appropriate

- For F-1 students who had maintained status as of March 9, 2020
- Permission to exceed distance education limits, when necessary
- Reduced hours or on-site supervision during Practical Training

*For a delayed arrival, coordinate with UR Department to submit request to update I-20/DS-2019 with more viable program dates.*

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**What is Meliora’s best option at this point?**

- a) Request a Reduced Course Load authorization for academic difficulty
- b) Immediately drop the course, bringing her to 8 credits for the term
- c) Apply to another school for transfer, since UR classes are too hard
- d) Look for opportunities to help with her study habits or English skills

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**Required Notifications: I-20 pg. 3**

ISO staff are your authorized designated school officials (DSO)

- Extension of Program must be requested before the current completion date passes
- School Transfer within 15 days of withdrawal, or 60-day grace period after completion (F-1)
- Address Reporting within 10 days of any residential change

Please stay in touch with ISO!!!

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**Study in the US**

ISO Observations & Important Considerations

- Register FULL-TIME each academic term: 9, 10.5, or 12 credits
  - Enrollment is not required during vacation periods, but is optional
- Use Reduced Course Load (RCL) option to enroll less than full-time
  - Academic Difficulty; Documented Medical Condition; Final Term
- Please monitor the completion date on your I-20 or DS-2019!
  - Extension requests MUST BE processed before this date passes
- Consider eligible grace periods for departure, transfer, benefits, etc.
  - F-1: 60 days; 15 days; None | J-1: 30 days; None (based on UR standing)
- Take advantage of UR academic resources to support your studies
  - Be cautious of “online help” & Review academic honesty policies

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International Services Office, University of Rochester
Employment in the US

Can Meliora accept the new position and still continue her other UR activities?

a) No, she would exceed her F-1 authorization for on-campus employment
b) Yes, if she obtains CPT authorization before the project begins in April
c) Maybe, based on the nature of each activity and source of payments
d) Maybe, if the summer grant program agrees to let her volunteer instead

J-1 Employment Considerations

- On-Campus Work Authorization
  - SEVIS & ISO documentation required, in advance of starting any work!
  - Scholarship/Assistantship/Fellowship; Other student employment positions
  - Approval up to 12 months at a time
  - 20 hours/week limit; No "On/Off"
- Academic Training vs. F-1 CPT/ OPT
  - Up to 18 months for most programs; 36 months total following Doctorate
- Non-UR Program Sponsor (IIE, etc.)
  - Contact your agency directly; ISO is not able to authorize employment

F-1 On-Campus Employment at an Off-Campus Location (On/Off)

Work for certain off-campus employers may qualify as F-1 on-campus employment, if contracted under a formal UR educational affiliation

- Must be related to UR program of study & included with other campus jobs under 20 hours/week limit during the academic year
- Eastman School of Music: "ESM Affiliates" include local churches, schools, performance venues, etc.; Contact ESM Academic Affairs

US Taxpayer Identification

Required on US tax reporting documents, by both payment recipient and US payor/entity

- Social Security Number (SSN)
  - F-1 Students are eligible only with valid & documented US employment:
    - On-campus job (letter); CPT authorization (I-20); OPT approval (EAD card)
  - J-1 Students may be eligible with evidence of valid status & work intention
    - Apply to SSA: In person; Application & original documents; 2–6 weeks
- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
  - Available to foreign nationals who are not currently eligible an SSN and have a timely tax reporting obligation (annual return, claiming benefits of tax treaty)
  - Exception for F/J students receiving non-service scholarship/fellowship/grant
    - Apply to IRS: By mail; Submit materials via Acceptance Agent; 2–3 months
SSN & ITIN Support from ISO

- www.iso.rochester.edu/taxes/taxid/index.html
  Eligibility criteria, application process, documentation & resources!
- UR Service Code details for any academic appointment(s)
  Non-Service: 6000/6001/6002/6003 | 6100/6101/6102/6103
  Service-based: 6004/6005/6006/6007 | 6104/6105/6106/6107
- Additional Guidance & Questions
  Webinar sessions on SSN eligibility: Fridays, 3:00pm–4:00pm, via Zoom (detailed instructions once eligible)
  Invitation to work directly with IRS Accepting Agent, if eligible for ITIN
- More info via web & ISO newsletter!

Employment in the US

ISO OBSERVATIONS & IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Always obtain written authorization BEFORE you start any work!
  Unauthorized employment is a severe violation of F-1 or J-1 status
- Consider the nature & source of any US opportunities or payments
  Non-service vs. Service-based payments; Unpaid/volunteer activities
- On-Campus Employment: 20 hours/week limit, during each term
  Work permission valid only after Immigration Check-In & SEVIS activation
- Off-Campus employment: Subject to eligibility & related to study
  Stay tuned for additional workshops from ISO on employment permissions
  GLACIER & Sprintax platforms for various tax reporting tools and support

Communications are Essential ...

ISO is here to help!
ISO is open and available year-round, excluding UR holidays

General Inquiries: +1-585-275-2866 or by email to questions@iso.rochester.edu
Appointments: call/email to schedule
Drop-in Advising: for basic questions
  https://rochester.zoom.us/my/iso.virtual.dropins
Website: www.iso.rochester.edu
TIPS On-Demand: UR Blackboard orgs.
ISO Newsletter: reminders, events, etc.

Join Us!!
Register online or contact ISO for more details.

Instagram: @iso_uofr_
Welcome to UR, Rochester & the US!

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—and Make the World Ever Better

International Services Office

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION