



INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Office of Global Engagement

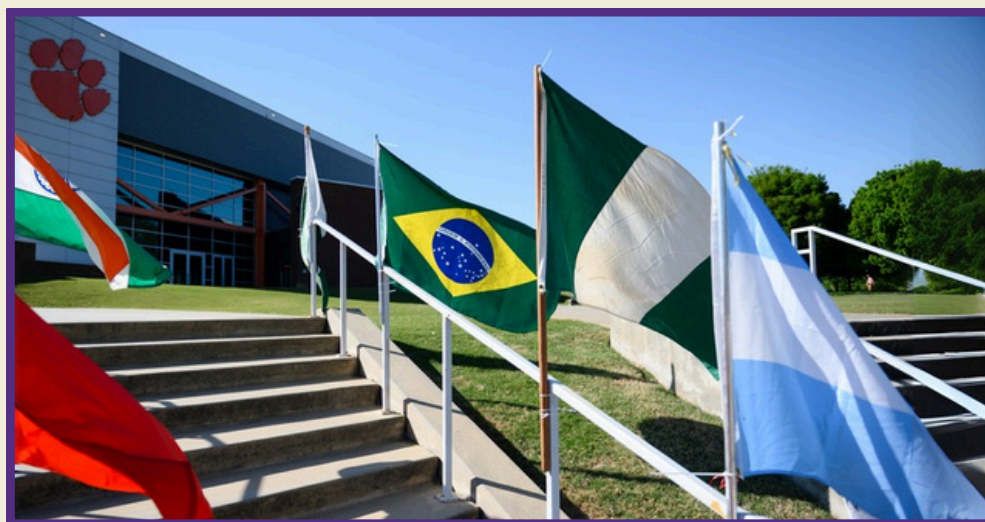
International Student Newsletter
August 29, 2025



WELCOME INTERNATIONAL TIGERS !!

Hello Tigers! Welcome (and welcome back) to a new semester at Clemson!

Here are your important reminders and updates for the month of August



Compliance Corner

New International Students

SEVIS Check-In:

U.S. immigration law requires all continuing and new international students to enroll full-time and complete their SEVIS Check-In within 15 days of your program start date (i.e. by September 4).

Once approved, your SEVIS record changes from Initial to Active. You must be in Active status to start any on-campus work, apply for a Social Security Number (SSN), or get a driver's license.

Steps for New Int'l Students:

- Arrive in the U.S. within 15 days of your program start date.
- Enroll full-time: 12 for undergraduate, 9 for graduate students. Only 3 credit hours of online coursework may be applied toward the full-time enrollment requirement.
- Submit all 4 sections of the SEVIS Check In e-Form under the "Orientation" tab on your iStart Student Portal and upload all required documents: I-94, Passport, Visa Stamp, etc.

Students who will be employed by Clemson University, will need to provide a completed Employment Verification Letter (EVL) found within the SEVIS Check-In e-Form, to be signed by International Services upon processing your SEVIS Check-In.

[Complete SEVIS Check-In here »](#)



Continuing International Students

All international students must ensure their local address and local telephone number remain up-to-date in SEVIS. To stay in compliance with immigration regulations, students must remember to update their local address with International Services within 10 days of any changes occurring.

If you have recently changed your local and foreign address, telephone number, and/or emergency contact information, and **have NOT updated our office yet**, please login to the iStart Portal, then click Biographical Information, and submit the **Biographical & Contact Information Update e-Form**.

Employment & Internships

On-Campus Jobs

F-1 and J-1 students may work up to 20 hours per week during the semester. Over official breaks, you may be eligible for more. All jobs must be processed by Human Resources. Explore openings on JobLink or at the Michelin Career Center (Hendrix Student Center).

[On-campus employment info »](#)

Graduate Assistantships:

Graduate assistants must:

- Enroll in at least 9 credits each semester.
- Complete SEVIS Check-In (must be Active to work).
- Apply for an SSN with an EVL signed by your department + International Services.
- Complete hiring paperwork with International Employment.

QUESTIONS?

Contact International Services
(is@clermson.edu)

or

International Employment
(intlemployment@clermson.edu)

Social Security Numbers (SSN):

You need an SSN if you are paid for employment in the U.S. (F-2 dependents are not eligible).

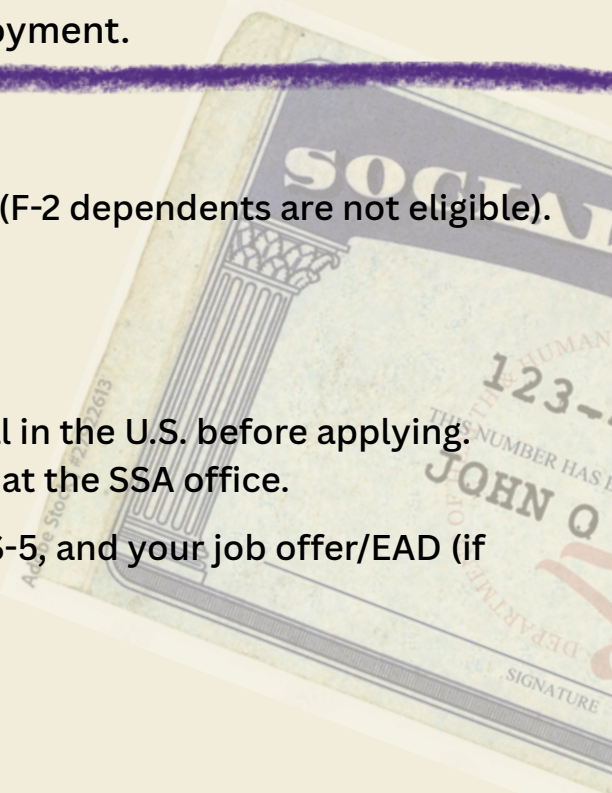
Steps:

1. Obtain your Employment Verification Letter (EVL).
2. Complete SEVIS Check-In and wait for activation.
3. It is recommended you wait at least 10 days after arrival in the U.S. before applying.
4. Start the application online, then complete it in person at the SSA office.

Bring: EVL, Form I-20/DS-2019, I-94, Passport, Visa, Form SS-5, and your job offer/EAD (if applicable).

Nearest SSA offices: Anderson, Greenville, or Charleston.

[SSN Application Details »](#)



Health Insurance & Immunizations



[Activate your plan & upload forms »](#)

All international students must maintain health insurance. Clemson offers the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) through BlueCross BlueShield. Mandatory students will see the charge on their tuition bill, but you must activate your plan before you can use it.

Before visiting Redfern Health Center:

- Activate SHIP online.
- Upload verified immunization records and complete the TB Risk Assessment in MyHealth-e.
- TB testing (Quantiferon Gold) must be done in the U.S. if required.

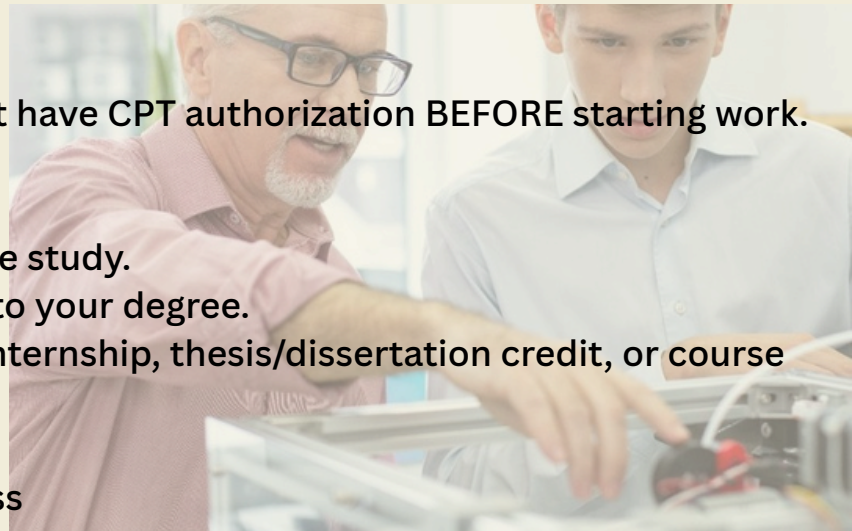
Students not in compliance may face registration holds and late fees.

CPT for Fall Internships:

If you plan to intern this semester, you must have CPT authorization BEFORE starting work.

Key Points:

- Eligible after 1 academic year of full-time study.
- Internship must be required or integral to your degree.
- Must enroll in the appropriate course (internship, thesis/dissertation credit, or course through CCPD such as INT or CO-OP).
- Work authorization:
 - Part-time CPT = 20 hours/week or less
 - Full-time CPT = 20+ hours/week
- More than 11 months, 28 days of full-time CPT will eliminate OPT eligibility.



Working before CPT is approved = unauthorized employment and termination of your SEVIS record.

[CPT requirements & request process »](#)



Post-Completion OPT and STEM OPT Extension Workshops Now Available!

International Services will host several workshops on Post-Completion OPT and STEM OPT Extension throughout the Fall semester. To view the schedule and register, please click the link below. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with a Zoom link to the session.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR A WORKSHOP](#)

What is Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)?

USCIS defines OPT as temporary employment directly related to an F-1 student's major area of study. Eligible students can apply to receive up to 12 months of OPT employment authorization after completing their academic studies and, if the degree is in a specific STEM field (science, technology, engineering, and math), may also be eligible for a 24-month extension of post-completion OPT, known as a STEM extension.



What is STEM OPT Extension?

USCIS defines STEM OPT Extension as the 24-month period of temporary training that directly relates to an F-1 student's [program of study](#) in an approved STEM field. Eligible F-1 students with STEM degrees who finish their program of study and participate in an initial period of regular [Post-Completion OPT](#) have the option to apply for a STEM OPT Extension. Students may not apply for STEM OPT Extensions during the 60-day grace period following an initial period of regular Post-Completion OPT.

In these Workshops, we will focus on:

- Eligibility for these practical training authorizations.
- The application process and timelines for applying.
- Maintaining F-1 immigration status during your authorization period.
- Travel guidance, including the need for I-20 travel signatures, traveling with an expired F-1 visa, etc.
- An introduction to your options beyond your authorization period.
- General Q&A opportunity at the end.

CAMPUS UPDATES



First Friday Parade

Today, August 29 | 6:00 pm

Men's Soccer vs. UAB

7:30 pm



Football vs. LSU

Saturday, August 30 | 7:30 pm



Labor Day

Monday, September 1

! University will be closed,
Classes will not meet



Labor Day is a U.S. federal holiday held on the first Monday of September to celebrate the contributions of American workers to the nation's strength and prosperity. It originated in the late 1800s with early labor unions and became a national holiday in 1894 after President Grover Cleveland signed a bill recognizing the first Monday in September. Today, it is a three-day weekend marked by parades, festivals, and family gatherings, and it signifies the unofficial end of summer for many people. We hope you enjoy this American holiday!

Stay Connected



INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Office of Global Engagement



108 Long Hall

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 4:30pm



is@clemsom.edu



@clemsominternationalservices



Zoom Advising | M-W-R from 1-4PM

Visit our [Contact Us](#) web page to
schedule an appointment.

