



# INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

*Office of Global Engagement*

International Student Newsletter  
September Edition

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# IMMIGRATION UPDATES

**LATEST  
IMMIGRATION  
UPDATES**

International Services continues to monitor immigration developments that may impact Clemson's international students, scholars, and faculty.

## **Recent Highlights:**

### **1. Visa Interview Location Requirement**

As of September 6, 2025, U.S. nonimmigrant visa (NIV) applicants must schedule interviews in their country of nationality or residence. Designated third-country locations are available for nationals of countries without routine U.S. visa services (e.g., Russians may apply in Astana or Warsaw).

◆ Planning travel? If your visa is expired and you were considering renewal in a third country, contact International Services before making arrangements.

### **2. June 9 Travel Restrictions**

These restrictions were reviewed within the initial 90-day window, but no changes have been announced. The next review is expected around March 10, 2026.

◆ Updates will be posted on the Immigration Updates site as they become available.

### **3. Visa Validity Changes**

The U.S. Department of State has shortened visa validity for many countries to 3-month, single-entry NIVs.

◆ Note: This does not require departure every three months, but re-entry will require a new visa.

### **4. Proposed Elimination of Duration of Status (D/S)**

DHS is considering replacing D/S with fixed end dates for F and J visa holders (typically 4 years + 30-day grace period). Extensions would require filing with USCIS.

◆ This is a proposal, not a final rule. We are monitoring closely and will share updates.



# APPLYING FOR A SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you plan to drive in South Carolina, you'll need to apply for a state driver's license at the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV).

**Note:** Your SEVIS record must be Active (this happens after completing SEVIS Check-In).


## Required Documents (F-1/J-1):

- Enrollment Verification Letter (request from Registrar after confirming your current U.S address).
- I-20 or DS-2019.
- Valid passport with F/J visa stamp.
- Most recent I-94 record.
- Social Security Number (SSN) card or SSA denial letter.
- Proof of liability car insurance.

Items listed on the [SCDMV International Customers' Checklist](#).


F/J Dependents need similar documents, including the enrollment verification letter of the primary student.

Closest DMV to Clemson: Seneca DMV, [13009 South Radio Station Road, Seneca, SC 29678](#).



If you do not qualify for an SSN, you must apply at the Social Security Administration and obtain a denial letter before visiting the DMV

[Details on Applying for a South Carolina Driver's License including common questions and resources for permit tests and driver's handbook](#)

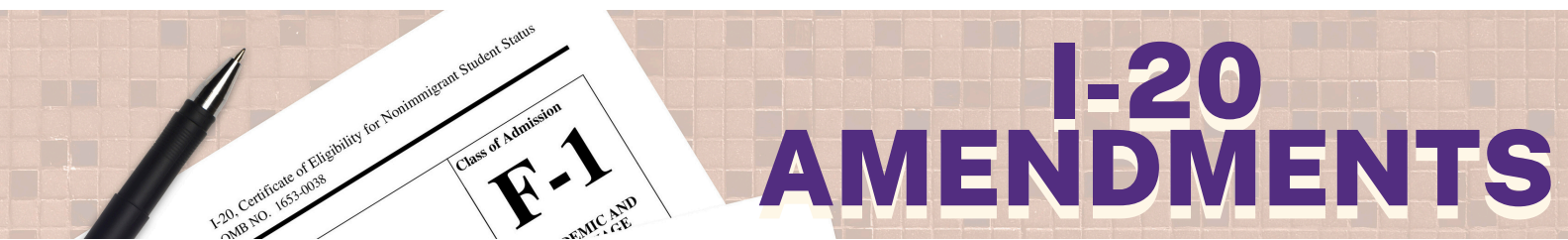




## FALL 2025 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

If you were unable to attend the Fall 2025 New International Student Orientation, you can watch the full recording at your convenience. The session covers important information about immigration requirements, campus resources, and student life at Clemson.

👉 [Click here to view the recording](#)



Your I-20/DS-2019 lists your program end date, and if you will not finish by that time, you must request an extension **BEFORE** the expiration date. Extensions can be submitted beginning November 5, after registering for Spring 2026 courses.

Reasons for an extension include:

- Academic delays or changes in program/major.
- Documented medical reasons.
- Research complications or additional requirements.
- Extending your program for the purposes of CPT

### How to Request an Amendment:

1. Register for Spring 2026 courses
2. Complete the [I-20/DS-2019 Form Amendment e-form](#)
3. Have your academic advisor explain the reason for the extension.
4. Provide proof of sufficient liquid funding (assistantship, personal/family support, etc.) for the *future* extension period requested.

⌚ Extensions must be submitted early — IS office cannot extend if your I-20 program end date is already expired. Amendments can also be used to change your major/program, change your education level, shorten your program end date



## ACADEMIC UPDATE

**October 28, 2025:** Last day to drop a class or withdraw without receiving a final grade.

Make sure you review your course load and consult with an advisor **BEFORE** making any changes.

Withdrawing from the university or dropping your courses before receiving official approval from our office will result in the immediate termination of your F-1 SEVIS Record.

A silhouette of a family of four (two adults and two children) walking along a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The family is holding hands and walking away from the viewer.

## DEPENDENTS IN F-2/J-2 STATUS

International students can invite a spouse or unmarried children under 21 to join them in the U.S.

### F-2 Dependents:

- May study part-time but cannot pursue a degree full-time.
- Not eligible for employment.
- Children may attend U.S. primary and secondary schools.

### J-2 Dependents:

- May pursue part- or full-time degree-seeking coursework.
- Eligible to apply for employment authorization from USCIS.

Submit a [Request for Dependent I-20](#) with proof of funding covering BOTH you and your dependent's expenses.

F-1 students must show one year of funding for dependents; J-1 students must show funding for the full period of the DS-2019



# FALL, WINTER BREAKS & TRAVEL SIGNATURES

**Fall Break:** Mon. – Tues., Oct. 13 – 14 (University open but no classes).

**Thanksgiving:** Wed – Fri., Nov. 26 – 28 (No classes, University closed Thurs. & Fri.).

**Winter Break:** Last day of classes – Fri., Dec. 12, 2025

Commencement – Wed., Dec. 17–18, 2025

No classes – Fri., Dec. 15, 2025 – Wed., Jan. 7, 2026.

University closed Mon., Dec. 22 – Fri., Dec. 26, 2025

If you plan to travel internationally, review our [Immigration Updates](#) page for the latest information regarding travel restrictions, and make sure your I-20 or DS-2019 has a [valid travel signature](#).

- Request one through your iStart portal or stop by the office during walk-in hours.
- Valid for 12 months (F-1 students) or 6 months if you are on OPT.
- If you plan to travel inside the United States, you do not need a travel signature.

F and J Students can remain in the US with an expired visa, long as they are otherwise maintaining status.

Our office asks that all students traveling internationally update us through the [International Travel Update](#) regardless of the validity of their travel signature and visa.

Without a valid signature, you may face issues at the U.S. Port of Entry.



[Learn More about International Travel](#)

# POST-COMPLETION OPT APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON

Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina

## ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS DECEMBER 2025?

You may be eligible to apply for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) **starting September 19, 2025.**

### What is OPT?

OPT is temporary employment directly related to your F-1 major. Eligible students can apply for up to 12 months of OPT after completing their studies. STEM majors may also qualify for a 24-month STEM extension.

### Application Steps:

- Submit the [Post-Completion OPT Request E-Form](#) in the iStart Portal.
- Receive a new I-20 with OPT recommendation from International Services.
- File your OPT application with USCIS before your 60-day grace period ends.

## Upcoming OPT Workshops

Join us to learn about:

- Eligibility & application timeline.
- Required forms and documents.
- Maintaining F-1 status while on OPT.
- Travel guidance while on OPT.
- STEM OPT extension overview.
- Q&A with our advisors.



# Fall Career Fair 2025



📍 Littlejohn Coliseum | 12 PM – 4 PM

- September 22–24: Technology, Engineering, Manufacturing, Sciences.
- September 25: Business, Social Sciences, Humanities.

Bring polished copies of your resume, practice your pitch, and dress professionally. This is one of Clemson's biggest networking events with employers across industries.

[Career Fair Schedule »](#)

## Stay Connected



**INTERNATIONAL  
SERVICES**

*Office of Global Engagement*



108 Long Hall

Monday – Friday | 8:00am – 4:30pm



is@clemson.edu



@clemsoninternationalservices



Zoom Advising | M–W–R from 1–4PM

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

