

Quick Question Answers!



My visa expired, must I renew it?

Answer: Only if you are already traveling outside the U.S. with plans to return. F-1 students are admitted for the Duration of Status and do not have to leave if their visa is expired. F-1 *visas may only be renewed at a U.S. Embassy outside the U.S.* Never travel outside the U.S. solely to renew your visa.

Family or Friend wants to visit?

Answer: Dr. Hall provides visitor visa support letters. Fill out “**Visa Support Letter Request**” form and turn it in to Nighat Shah at the welcome desk. Your letter will be ready for pick up the following day.

Can I do an internship?

Answer: Most academic programs provide academic credit for a paid or unpaid internship called, “Curricular Practical Training” or CPT by U.S. Immigration. **Immigration authorization is required through our office before beginning any off campus internship.**

When can I apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT)?

Answer: Up to 90 days before the completion of your academic program and up to 60 days afterwards. The earlier, the better though. It takes approximately 90 days to process this application, so late applicants will get less than the full 12 months of OPT.

What do I have to do to apply for OPT?

Answer: 1) Attend an OPT workshop or review the online OPT information and print out the certificate. 2) Collect all items on the OPT checklist. 3) Email Nighat Shah nshah@callutheran.edu for an OPT appointment.

Is the STEM OPT still available for science, technology, engineering and math majors?

Answer: Until we hear otherwise, it is still available through February 24, 2016. We fully expect it to continue beyond that with some possible new restrictions and requirements.

I want to travel outside the U.S. What about getting my I-20 signed?

Answer: Make sure all your financial obligations to the University are met. 2) Fill out the “Intention to travel” form. 3) Have a DSO in our office sign your I-20 each time you travel outside the U.S.

Can I get a Social Security Card?

Answer: Only if you have a job for wages or an Employment Authorization Card (EAD card used for OPT).

Can I take a term off?

Answer: Only after you have completed 3 consecutive terms, otherwise you will need to take a leave of absence. Please make an appointment with Dr. Hall if you need a leave of absence.

Where is my mail?

Answer: With Nighat Shah at the reception desk. Please present your student ID! You must have a note to pick up someone else's mail!