Important Info and Reminders to F-1 Students

- Make sure your address information is up-to-date and correct! (See article on page 3 for details.)
- US phone numbers are now required by SEVIS (Federal Law). Make sure you enter your US phone number in my.fordham.edu (see address article on page 3 for details)
- Enroll Full-Time! All students must enroll full time in classes. This means at least 12 credits/term for undergraduates, and at least 9 credits for graduates. Only students in their last term may enroll less than full time.
- F1 regulation on taking online courses: If this is your last semester/trimester before completing your program, your last course can not be an online course if that is the only course you have to take in order to graduate.
- Check your I-20 completion date! If you now plan to complete your program either earlier or later than that date, email ois@fordham.edu to let us know!

OIS Hours and Services

The OIS is happy to assist you with maintaining your status while at Fordham. In addition to taking appointments and walk-in students, the OIS has a number of other duties including SEVIS reporting, complying with federal requirements, issuing I-20s, letters, and authorizations, responding to emails, running programs for students, and more. So that we can better serve our 3,000+ international students and scholars in the best way possible, please review and honor our hours listed here.

**YOU are responsible for knowing our hours and making sure you come at the appropriate time. If you come outside of the times listed here, OIS might not be able to assist you.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lincoln Center</th>
<th>Rose Hill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pick-Up/Drop-Off</strong></td>
<td>Monday—Thursday 10:00am—4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Walk In</strong></td>
<td>Tuesdays 10:00am—1:00pm Thursday 2:00pm—4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Appointments</strong></td>
<td>refer to our online appointment scheduler</td>
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Important Message to our F1s on STEM OPT

Remember, while you are on STEM OPT, you are still an F1 and you are still under most reporting requirements as you were a student, but now, you must follow several additional reporting requirements. Allow this article to highlight and emphasize them.

As an F1 under STEM OPT, you must submit to Fordham’s DSO:

- the required six-month validation report must be submitted within 10 business days of each six-month validation due date
- any changes to the following, within 10 days of the change:
  - Student's legal name, and mailing and physical addresses
  - When the student stops working for an employer
  - When the student starts working for a new qualifying employer
  
  [8 CFR 214.2(f)(12)(ii)(B)]

- required self-evaluations. Submit two self-evaluations ("Evaluation of Student Progress" portion of I-983) "no later than 10 days following the conclusion of the reporting period or conclusion of his or her practical training opportunity". For example: follow these “due dates” to turn in evaluations: 1 year from STEM start date and then again 2 years from STEM start date. IMPORTANT: If you change employers at any time this evaluation must be submitted at the conclusion of that employment.
  

- when there has been a material change to the training plan described on the Form I-983 on file with the DSO, by submitting a modified Form I-983 to the DSO, "at the earliest available opportunity"
  

These obligations attach to the entire 24-month STEM OPT period, including any time spent during the 180-day period following the expiration of standard post-completion OPT while a timely-filed STEM OPT extension application is pending with USCIS.

This article is timely because OIS has noticed that many of our Stemmers violate these abovementioned reporting regulations - the SEVP (SEVIS) system allows your DSO to "report" very late, beyond the regulatory "day limitations" - but this does not mean that this violation is not "tracked" or "forgiven" or the system might change and DSOS could not report beyond the proper time.

Please feel free to contact OIS if you have any questions or concerns about this topic.

Update Your US Address!

Please make sure your US local address is up to date! If you have moved out of your previous US address, or if you lived in university housing last semester but will live off-campus this fall, you MUST update your address on your my.fordham account! SEVIS (Federal Law) requires this information, and the OIS would rather not have to bother you for this information. By checking and updating your information on my.fordham.edu, you can satisfy the Federal requirement and save the OIS from having to send you emails.

To update your address and phone number: 1) log in to my.fordham.edu 2) click on the Student tab 3) click on the Banner Self-Service folder, and then the Information folder in the My Information portal 4) click on Update Addresses and Phone

Non-University Local: Current US local address. This field is REQUIRED for anyone not living in university housing!!

You must enter your US phone number here, too!

Permanent: Current home address in another country (not the US!)

Mailing: Wherever you want mail to be sent to

Billing: Wherever you want bills sent to

Your my.fordham account is also where you can update your email address and phone number.

If you are not able to update your ad-dress and phone number using my.fordham, please just send an email to ois@fordham.edu telling us your new address and phone number.

Remember: the way you write your US address is important! You should write your US address following this model:

Street # Street Name Apartment #
City, State, Zip code

For example:

97 W 50th Street Apt 12C
New York, NY 10023

Page 2
Internet Action is Required by ALL F1 and J1 students by **September 10, 2017**

If you have already gone online and completed the Insurance Registration Process, please disregard.

All F-1 and J-1 international students must have health insurance coverage while at Fordham. You are automatically in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) for each semester for which you are registered or maintaining matriculation. The annual charge of $2,567 will be applied to your student account on a semester basis ($924 in the fall + $1,643 in the spring&summer).

The Student Health Insurance Plan is a **good value**, because it exclusively insures students, those who tend to be healthier than the general population. The plan has greatly improved compared to past years, including prescription benefits and more. The plan is also Affordable Care Act compliant, meeting specific federal and school requirements.

Even though you have already been billed for SHIP, if you want this coverage you must go online to enroll by September 10. This enrollment is what makes sure your name gets on the provider’s list of insured students.

If you already have a different health insurance plan and therefore **do not need** the Fordham Student Health Insurance Plan, you must **waive the coverage online** by **September 10, 2017** to have the charge removed from your tuition statement.

Fordham University will no longer allow insurance companies that do not meet or exceed the limits offered by Fordham University’s Student Health Insurance Plan. This is to insure that all international students are covered by a plan that is comparable and accessible to provide health coverage.

To meet these waiver criteria you must:

- **Maintain other insurance coverage that is equal to or greater than the Student Health Insurance Plan benefits and with no additional exclusions.**

- The insurance company must be headquartered and operating in the US, with a US claims address and customer service telephone number.

- The insurance coverage must remain in effect from: 8/23/2017 through 8/22/2018

- The plan must be ACA compliant The plan must provide **inpatient hospitalization** benefits in the New York City area including mental health benefits. The plan must provide **outpatient benefits** in the New York City area (including office visits, outpatient mental health visits and laboratory and radiology procedures). **Coverage for emergency only care does not satisfy the requirement.**

- The maximum benefit payable under the insurance plan must be unlimited. The insurance plan must include coverage for medical evacuation of at least US$50,000 per year; repatriation of remains of at least US$25,000 per year; and a deductible not to exceed US$500 per year.

The following types of insurance plans will NOT be acceptable for waiving the Fordham plan:

- Travel policies with limited benefits and exclusions of coverage, the plan must be ACA compliant.

- Insurance plans that always require students to pay for treatment out-of-pocket and then be reimbursed.

- Plans advertised as ACA Comparable do not satisfy the waiver requirement

To get your **health insurance card now** to obtain medical services and fill prescriptions, please confirm your enrollment online at: [www.Fordham.edu/health/insurance](http://www.Fordham.edu/health/insurance)

Should you have questions about the plan or the registration process or if you want to know if your insurance policy meets the university requirements, please contact our Health Insurance Compliance Administrator, Maritza Rivera-Garcia, at: [StudentInsurance@Fordham.edu](mailto:StudentInsurance@Fordham.edu) or 718-817-4164

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**Don't forget to take action online, no matter whether you will enroll in or waive the Fordham SHIP! The deadline is September 10, 2017**
Travel Outside the US

If you left the US during summer vacation, make sure you have your pass-port, a valid F-1 visa, and a valid I-20 when you re-enter. If you have been approved for OPT and have received the EAD card, make sure to bring that EAD card as well when you re-enter the US. It may also be helpful to bring proof of your employment if you have a job (such as an offer letter and emails between you and your supervisor). If you do not have a job, it may be helpful to bring proof of your search.

Did you leave the country and forget to have your I-20 endorsed for travel? (This is the travel signature on page 3). Don’t worry! If you have trouble at the border, you can ask for a Form I-515A. This will allow you to enter the U.S. in F-1 status. You will need to make an appointment immediately upon entering. The I-515A gives you a temporary F-1 status, and in this appointment, we will help you regain your Duration of Status.

Global Transition Society

*Global Transition, the 5-day welcome program for new international undergraduate students, has branched out to create the Global Transition Society, which provides continued support, fun social events, and useful info sessions for international students during the semester.*

A big reunion (with food), career services session specifically designed for international students, Friendsgiving (during the Thanksgiving holiday), and an international banquet bringing together cuisines from around the world, are some of the great events planned for this year.

This group is open to any and all *undergraduates only.*

Look out for emails from gtsociety@fordham.edu

And be sure to join us on Facebook: search for Global Transition Society

Event Announcement

Want to work at the United Nations? Open to all students. Get an insiders perspective on what it takes to work at the UN with special guest: Asim Sharma, Chief, Outreach Unit, UN Human Resources and Kelly Roberts, Office of International Services, Fordham University will speak about Fordham/UN NGO opportunities to become an NGO representative at the UN and more!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 26, 12:00-2:00pm

**WHERE:** 12th Floor Lounge, Lincoln Center Campus (113 West 60th Street)

**RSVP here:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLsdOJxy8AYCrNmsgKBDSHCeVu0bCPYhMKoxpjWkuk9kLMDsU-/A/viewform