MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS
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While you are on OPT . . . you are still considered an F-1 student

1) Remember to report all address changes to MSU via the registrar's web site within 5 days of moving to your new residence. You address must describe where you live. It cannot be a PO Box or an office address.
http://www.reg.msu.edu
Click on address change and use "local address" to report your address change
PLEASE NOTE THAT FAILURE TO KEEP YOUR US ADDRESS CURRENT CAN JEOPARDIZE YOUR STAY IN THE US.

2) Make sure OISS has a photocopy of your EAD card on file

3) Before you travel, remember to:

- make sure your passport is valid at least 6 months into the future
- make sure your I-20 has been signed for travel within 6 months. If you need a new travel signature, bring or send your I-20 to OISS with a copy of your EAD card
- make sure that your visa stamp is valid. If your visa is not valid for re-entry make preparations to renew your visa while overseas at the US embassy or consulate. Please note: OISS cautions F-1 OPT travel if a new visa stamp is needed. Please speak to OISS before traveling.
- carry your EAD card and proof of employment for the EAD time period with you. Proof of employment can include a letter from your employer, recent pay stubs, or if you have not yet obtained a job, carries proof of an interview or a job search.
- If your F-2 dependent is traveling separately, make sure your dependent carries a copy of your I-20 with OPT endorsement and a copy of your EAD card.

4) Remember to depart the United States within the 60 day grace period that follows your last day of OPT. If you plan on changing your status we recommend that you begin this process before your OPT is expired. If you are transferring to another school, make sure to contact OISS so that your records may be electronically transferred BEFORE the end of your authorized stay.

PLEASE NOTE: Many international students can go to Mexico or Canada for less than 30 days on an expired US visa. However, if your US visa stamp will be valid upon re-entry to the United States, you should be able to travel to Canada or Mexico without any problem after you obtain any necessary visas to these countries. OISS DOES NOT RECOMMEND THIS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE SUBJECT TO SPECIAL REGISTRATION.

5) If you are subject to Special Registration

- make sure to use official ports of departure to exit the US and leave yourself time at airports and land crossings to complete the exit interview even if traveling to Mexico and Canada.
- make sure to comply with each required visit to USCIS as necessary. **You will receive instructions at the port of entry if additional visits are needed.**

6) Please check the OISS web site and your MSU e-mail account for immigration updates.

7) Note on major medical insurance coverage: many times students on OPT do not go directly into a job where insurance coverage is provided. If your health insurance from your home country will not cover you in this interim period, you may extend your MSU student coverage by purchasing additional months. Please come to OISS before you graduate for more information.

07/30/2004