

2020 Spring Immigration Workshop

Monday, March 9, 2020
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

The annual Spring Immigration Workshop (SIW) is organized by the Knowledge Community for International Student and Scholar Services (KC-ISSS) representative and the Government Regulations Advisory Committee (GRAC) of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Region XI. We look forward to your participation in this day-long workshop filled with informative sessions and opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the region.

8:00 - 9:00 am	CHECK-IN	Campus Center Lobby, 2 nd floor
8:00 - 9:00 am	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	Campus Center Lobby, 3 rd floor
9:00 - 10:30 am	CONCURRENT SESSIONS I	<i>(Choose from sessions below)</i>

F-1 BASICS MINI-WORKSHOP, Part I (Pre-registration required)

Higgins House

Chair: Elke Breker, Brown University
Presenters: Kelsey Dennis, Brown University
Caitlin Szymkowitz, Smith College
Randa Meyer, Harvard University

Description:

This introductory two-part session is for participants who are new to the field of immigration advising. Presenters will provide an overview of the basic theoretical and practical knowledge needed to advise international students in F-1 status. Topics covered include the issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility (I-20), obtaining a student visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate, and some standard immigration issues that F-1 students encounter during their program of study. This workshop is presented as a two-part session that will take place during the two morning time blocks. If you register for this workshop, you are expected to attend both sessions.

(NOTE: This DOUBLE SESSION is NOT the CERTIFIED NAFSA CORE EDUCATION PROGRAM)

Trending Topics in Employment Visas: A Journey through the Alphabet

Salisbury 115

Chair: Anthony Pawelski, Partners HealthCare
Presenters: Amara Neng, Costa & Riccio, LLP
Elizabeth Capuano, Harvard University

Description:

This panel will provide an overview (not quite A through Z) of the most pressing trends in the employment-based visas specifically, the H-1B, L, E-3, H-1B1, TN, and O-1. Come hear about updates, current processing trends, types of request for evidence, and best practices. Finally, panelist will also review trends with J-1 waivers and discuss the proposed regulatory agenda.

9:00 - 10:30 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I (continued)

(Choose from sessions below)

Creative Advising: Using Technology and Other Avenues to Provide Holistic Support and Services to International Students on Campus *Olin 107*

Chair: Daniel Pirbudagov, UMass-Dartmouth

Presenters: Yves Bruno, Boston College
Catherine Odera, Northeastern University

Description:

This session addresses the potential of using a wider range of advising and outreach modalities in order to provide a more effective and adaptive support to international students. The use of technology, targeted partnership with other institutional units, and a more holistic approach to the handling of international students' needs and objectives will be examined. This session aims to be interactive and to allow information sharing among advisors.

Transitions I: F-1 Options after OPT (STEM, Cap-Gap, and continued study) *Salisbury 104*

Chair: Andrea Popa, Emerson College

Presenters: Monica Rodriguez, Boston University
Anna Garson, Bentley University

Description:

This session will address considerations for advising students about options after OPT, including the role of the DSO in advising the post-graduation scenarios. Will cover STEM OPT eligibility and reporting, CIP code changes, cap-gap, and continued F-1 study.

Maintaining a Healthy J-1 Program *Salisbury 105*

Chair: Parker Emerson, Yale University

Presenters: Kendra Zysk, MCPHS University

Description:

This session will help you: identify when and how to initiate contact with federal agencies, and identify strategies for effectively managing situations when federal agencies initiate contact with the program (such as site visits), identify features of a program that can be highlighted in the annual report to illustrate activity and success in areas of key interest to the Department of State and Congress and examine Redesignation requirements and identify the location of required documents.

10:30-10:45

COFFEE BREAK

Campus Center and Higgins House

F-1 BASICS MINI-WORKSHOP, Part I (Pre-registration required)**Higgins House**

Chair: Elke Breker, Brown University
Presenters: Kelsey Dennis, Brown University
Caitlin Szymkowicz, Smith College
Randa Meyer, Harvard University

Description:

This is the second part of the F-1 Basics Mini-Workshop offered in the Concurrent Sessions I time block.

(Individuals who registered for this session and attended Part I are expected to attend Part II.)

(NOTE: This DOUBLE SESSION is NOT the CERTIFIED NAFSA CORE EDUCATION PROGRAM)

Let's Take It To Court!**Salisbury 115**

Chair: Dan Berger, Curran, Berger & Kludt
Presenters: Jonathan Wasden, Wasden Law

Description:

Litigation used to be rare for academic immigration, but now it is becoming more common. This session will discuss how and when to consider going to court, including mandamus (for long delays), APA challenge to a poorly reasoned decision, I-290B Motions to Reconsider or Appeal to the Administrative Appeals Office, and larger national class action or amicus efforts on issues such as STEM OPT, DACA and Unlawful Presence. Going to court is not always a good idea, but it is an arrow in your quiver.

Travel Update with DOS and CBP**Olin 107**

Chair: Amanda Doran, MIT
Presenters: Eric Geddry, CBP, Boston Logan Airport
Kristen Stolt, DOS Visa Office

Description:

Join us for a discussion with representatives from the Department of State's Visa Office and US Customs and Border Protection about the visa application and admission process, current issues and new policies and practices. Government representatives have been invited. There will be an opportunity for Q&A.

Transitions II: The Bumpy Road to H-1B and More**Salisbury 104**

Chair: Liz Goss, Goss Associates
Presenters: Amanda Connolly, Boston University
Sarah Curry, SMS Consulting

Description:

The session will cover the changes to the H-1B lottery process in 2020. The session will cover the process for both student and DSOs as well as what students and DSOs can expect at the end of the H-1B CAP season and discussion of options beyond. We will cover some of the recent issues as it relates to students transitioning into the workplace including a compliance update and the new public charge rule.

10:45 – 12:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II (continued)

(Choose from sessions below)

J-1 Employment Overview

Salisbury 105

Chair: Erin Gustafson, Yale University
Presenters: Rae Alexander, University of Connecticut
Andrew Shiotani, Tufts University

Description:

This session will explore in depth on- and off-campus employment as it pertains to J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. Topics will include on-campus employment and academic training for degree and non-degree seeking J-1 students, incidental employment and second site(s) of activity for J-1 scholars, and J-2 dependent employment. Case studies and examples will be used to reflect upon and to encourage follow up conversations.

12:15 – 1:40pm

LUNCH/HONORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Odeum Campus Center

1:45 – 3:15pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

(Choose from sessions below)

F-1 Employment Overview

Salisbury 115

Chairs: Kathy Foley, Middlebury College
Presenters: Arthur Galinat, University of Connecticut
Caitlin Szymkowitz, Smith College

Description:

Join us for an overview of employment authorization options available to enrolled students in F-1 status. Topics will include on-campus employment possibilities, pre-completion practical training (Curricular and Optional), Economic Hardship, and more. Along with a general introduction to the various employment pathways, we will discuss best practices and suggestions for handling employment-related issues and questions that may arise. We will also point you to resources you can use to support students as they navigate work opportunities on campus or apply their learning at off-site locations.

POE Woes: Student/Scholar Rights and Responsibilities at Port of Entry

Olin 107

Chair: Amanda Doran, MIT
Presenters: Liz Goss, Goss Associates
Nia DeYoung, Bentley University

Description:

Join us for a discussion - without government reps present - about current issues facing international students and scholars at US ports of entry, including (but not limited to) automatic visa revalidation, I-515A issuance, secondary inspection, search of electronic devices, and denial of entry. We will discuss student/scholar rights and responsibilities, current trends, and debrief on relevant issues raised at the "Travel Update with DOS and CBP" session earlier in the day.

1:45 – 3:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III (continued)

(Choose from sessions below)

Working with Immigration Attorneys

Salisbury 104

Chairs: Andrew Shiotani, Tufts University
Presenters: Prasant Desai, Iandoli Desai & Cronin P.C.
Anthony Pawelski, Partners HealthCare

Description:

The session will discuss the roles of international students and scholar advisors and the (un)intentional (un)authorized practice of law by the advisers. The session will also explore the best practice of when and how to work with outside immigration counsels to maintain their personal and institutional compliance and liability. The panel is formed with experienced professionals from different backgrounds.

Preventing Scams & Fraud

Salisbury 105

Chair: Colleen Callahan-Panday, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
Presenters: Jodi Hanelt, Brandeis University
Ozan Say, Yale University

Description:

Scam calls and emails on college campuses have been on the increase! This session will provide an overview and examples on common scams and fraud that target international populations. We will discuss how different campuses have addressed these issues with their international population, as well as provide suggestions for how to help students and scholars become more aware of scams to avoid becoming victims. Members of campus police have been invited.

3:15- 3:30 pm

AFTERNOON BREAK

Salisbury Laboratories Lobby

3:30- 5:00 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV

(Choose from sessions below)

From I-9s to 1040NRs: A Bird's Eye View

Salisbury 115

Chairs: Dawn Sedutto, Southern New Hampshire University
Presenters: Enda Kelleher, Sprintax
Vanessa Paulman, UMass Medical School

Description:

Join us for an overview of the entire process an international student or scholar goes through when working or receiving taxable scholarship. We'll cover the I-9, W-4, Social Security Number, ITIN, W-2, 1042-S and the tax return process.

CIS Ombuds and More: Navigating Changes and Finding Support***Olin 107*****Chair:** Hanna Bliss, Amherst College**Presenters:** Elizabeth Capuano, Harvard University

Nichole Hunley, UMass Amherst

Allison Posner, Office of the Citizenship & Immigration Services Ombudsman

Description:

Join us to review recent USCIS and SEVP updates, explore how we're all approaching these changes in our work, and identify the systems of support available to us. We're pleased to be joined by Allison Posner, Chief of Casework at Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, who will share more about the CIS Ombuds Office as a helpful and effective resource. This will be both an informational session as well as an opportunity to discuss emerging practices together. (USCIS and SEVP government officials will not be present.)

The In-Between: Reviewing Processes for Leaves of Absences (LOAs) & Reduced Course Loads (RCLs)***Salisbury 104*****Chair:** Kate Sacco, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**Presenters:** Mary Struzska-Tyamayev, Simmons College

Mary Louton, UMass Medical School

Description:

This session will explore best practices and case studies related to processing leaves of absences and reduced course loads. Process considerations will include: campus partners, timeline, systems and documentation.

The Elusive H-1B: Making Odd Jobs Work***Salisbury 105*****Chair:** Mary Walsh, Iandoli Desai & Cronin P.C.**Presenters:** Lynn Walters-Rekhi, Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard**Description:**

This session will be a practical deep-dive into how to approach out-of-the-box H-1B petitions. We will cover:

- How to select the "best" SOC code in a multi-disciplinary world.
- When to get a combination degree/work experience evaluation to create a better matching degree field.
- Crafting a job description which align with the SOC code with a future RFE in mind.
- Using the OOH to your advantage and when to argue it is not appropriate to apply.
- Samples of additional evidence to include in the initial petition to avoid an RFE.
- Samples of RFE responses for cases you just cannot avoid an RFE (job charts, expert letter template, etc.)
- At the end of this session, we hope attendees will be better equipped to tackle their next tricky H-1B.

PLEASE SUBMIT SIW EVALUATION FORMS and RECYCLE YOUR NAME TAG HOLDERS

in the boxes on your way out!