



IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

To obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa from the American Consulate in your country, follow the steps described below:

- Review your immigration document (F-1/I-20 and/or J-1/DS—2019).
 - If you find errors, notify our office
 - Read I-20, page 3 or DS-2019 page 2
- Sign and date at the bottom of page 1 (I-20/DS-2019).
- Examine your passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months into the future, **at all times**.
- After paying the SEVIS I-901 fee, make an appointment for a visa interview.
- Bring your passport, I-20 or DS-2019 document, and I-901 SEVIS Receipt to the visa appointment.
- If sponsored by your government, school, or other agency, you must show an official letter of award to the Consular Officer
- If your support is from personal and/or family funds, you must show bank statements, letters of credit, or proof of annual salary and/or total available or anticipated assets.

PORT OF ENTRY – TRAVEL INFORMATION

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel>

VALIDATION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF PROGRAM START DATE

- F-1 and J-1 students must report to Office of International Students & Scholars Office with their passport, I-94 Form, I-20 and/or DS-2019 forms (and their dependents documents) **within 30 days of the beginning the semester**. Failure to report **will** result in an automatic invalidation of the SEVIS.
- F-1 and J-1 may enter the United States 30 days prior to the start of the term.

MANDATORY COURSE LOAD and ID

- Graduate students without assistantships must register for a minimum of 9 credits per semester
- Graduate students with assistantships may register to a minimum of 6 credits per semester
- Undergraduate students must register a minimum of 12 credits per semester

URI ID

You may obtain your ID card by visiting the Campus Access Office, in the Memorial Union. This ID card will permit you access the campus library, the gymnasium and other URI facilities. **Before obtaining your URI ID card, you must be registered for classes.**

HOUSING INFORMATION - Making housing arrangements is solely your responsibility

Undergraduates Students: For on-campus housing information, go to: <http://housing.uri.edu/>

Graduate Students: <http://housing.uri.edu/info/graduate-housing.php>

Off campus housing information: http://www.uri.edu/commuter_housing/

HEALTH INFORMATION

Please download the URI Health Immunization Record by visiting the Health Services web page:
<http://health.uri.edu>

- A licensed physician in your country should complete the Record Form **in English**.
- Bring your immunization forms to Health Services.
- **If you do not submit your health records, you will be prevented from attending classes.**

Please Note: If accompanied by school age children, you must also bring their educational and medical records.

URI Health Insurance and Exemptions:

All international students will be required to purchase the University of Rhode Island's health insurance. Students may be **EXEMPTED** from purchasing the URI health insurance if they can demonstrate that they have a comparable plan to URI's health policy (**Affordable Care Act standards**).

- To be exempted from purchasing URI health insurance, submit a **WAIVER** request on line.
- If you do not complete this process, you will be billed the URI health insurance total cost.

Dependents of international students must also be covered by URI health or other comparable insurance. Students accompanied by children will need to choose a local pediatrician for their children, since URI Health Services does not offer pediatric services.

For more information on insurance or immunization information please contact the URI Health Services Department directly at 401-874-4755 or <http://health.uri.edu>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Cost of living in Kingston is **very high**. Please plan to arrive with enough U.S. currency to meet your initial expenses. It may take up to 4 weeks before funds from scholarships, fellowships and/or assistantships are available to you.

Make adequate provision for yourself or your family before arriving. **There are no emergency funds available to assist you.** Depending on your country of origin, it can be time consuming to have funds transferred to you after you are in the United States; in some cases, as much as 6 weeks. Familiarize yourself with the regulations of your own government regarding dollar exchange and transfer of funds. The safest and most convenient way of carrying funds is by Traveler's checks.

Although on-campus employment is available to international students, it is not a sufficient source of income and does not count toward financial certification for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

In general, both F-1 and J-1 students are permitted to work 20 hours per week, **on-campus** during the academic year; and up to 35 hours per week during official school breaks or vacation. Working on or off campus requires approval by the **OISS**.

- F-1 visa holders are not permitted to work off-campus during the first academic year.
- J-1 government sponsored students are not permitted to work unless authorized by their home government.
- **F-2 visa holders cannot accept employment or monetary compensation of any kind.**
- The US Citizenship and Immigration Services may authorize **J-2** visa holders to work. Please contact our office for more details.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS and DRIVER'S LICENSE

Obtaining a Social Security Card takes approximately thirty days. To obtain a social security card, you must bring the original documents listed below to the Social Security Administration Office:

- Offer of employment letter or assistantship letter;
- Verification of enrollment letter from the OISS;
- Copy of biographical passport page;
- Copy of the visa page;
- I-94 number;
- I-20 or DS-2019 document

To obtain a Rhode Island driver's license, in addition to the items listed above, you will be required to bring to the Division of Motor Vehicles Office:

- A valid social security card or a rejection letter from the Social Security Office**
- Documentation showing your Rhode Island address

AIRPORT PICK-UP

The OISS does not provide transportation services from the airport, bus station or train station to campus. However, arrangements can be made for you by contacting the Office of International Education/OIE to secure arrival on campus (**Arrival Services Form**). You will be expected to pay the transportation fee established by the shuttle, taxi, etc.

Refer to the Arrival Services Form and the Transportation Information Handout included in your packet and/or visit the OISS orientation web page: <http://www.uri.edu/iss/welcomeweek>

The estimated cost for a taxi is \$80 from T.F. Green Airport and \$10 from the Kingston Train Station. **All fee estimates are subject to change.**

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

It is recommended to travel light and to only bring the most essential personal items with you. Remember that you must travel from the airport to your final destination and there are no services to help you carry your luggage. However, if you must bring more than the necessary, we recommend that you ship your packages or trunks in your name, ahead of time to:



C/o University of Rhode Island
Office of International Students & Scholars
37 Lower College Road
Kingston, RI 02881

Mark all shipments:

FOR PERSONAL USE OF STUDENT

SHIP IN BOND FOR CUSTOM CLEARANCE AT PROVIDENCE, RI