

Important Definitions

Exchange Visitor Program—The U.S. Department of State administers the Exchange Visitor Program to foster global understanding through educational and cultural exchanges.

SEVIS—Student & Exchange Visitor Information System— This is the information database used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of State to monitor international students and Exchange Visitors in the United States.

Responsible Officer (RO) & Alternate Responsible Officers (AROs)— University of Akron employees authorized to enter or update information in the SEVIS database (see your CTTU-1210-6428 (8/2014) manual for more information).

Maintain a “Full Course of Study”

To remain in the U.S. lawfully, it is extremely important for you as an international student to maintain status throughout the duration of your exchange visitor program.

Graduate students are required to register for a minimum of 9 credits hours each fall and spring semester.

Law students are required to register for a minimum of 12 credit hours each fall and spring semester.

Undergraduate students are required to enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours each fall and spring semester.

Students are not required to take summer classes during a summer break unless happens to be your first or final semester of study at The University of Akron. In this case, you would need to

Comply with your Grace Period

- Upon completion of the exchange program, J visa holders have 30 days to remain in the United States to prepare for departure.
- Employment is not permitted during this ~~30~~ day period.
- If an RO/ARO authorizes the student's early withdrawal, the student may remain in the United States for up to 15 days from the time the early withdrawal is entered into SEVIS.
- J-1 exchange visitors who fall out of status are not granted a grace period to leave the U.S.
- If you depart the U.S. during your grace period, your grace period ends.

Abide by Employment Regulations

On Campus Employment

Some reasons why you may be subject to this:rule

- o Your participation in the exchange visitor program was funded by the United States Government or a foreign government directly or indirectly
- o You are developing skills in a field which your home country has asked to be put on the skills list; or
- o You are coming to the U.S. for graduate medical education or training.

The two-year home country residence requirement here may be waived in some situations. Refer to the Department of State website for more information <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange/waiver-of-the-exchange-visitor.html>

Abide By Laws

You are required to follow all criminal and civil laws governing the jurisdiction(s) in which you are living attending school, and traveling. This includes federal, state, and city laws, regulations, and ordinances about:

- Filing annual tax returns;
- Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs;
- Driving;
- Immigration;
- Violence (including domestic violence); and
- Firearm possession.

Visa Revocation

If you are arrested, your visa may be revoked. Discuss your situation with the International Center right away if you have been charged with a crime, especially if you are planning to travel outside the U.S.

Stay Aware of Important Updates

Please be sure to check your UA email account regularly to receive updates from the International Center. This is the primary way we communicate changes to U.S. immigration regulations and policies that may affect you. This is also how we inform you of changes to International Center policies and processes.

Disclaimer: The International Center is able to provide you with general guidance. However, any advice provided to you by our office, as well as the information in this packet, should not be construed as legal advice. Additionally, due to the fluid nature of governmental interpretation, the USCIS may change its interpretation of these immigration laws, regulations, and eligibility requirements for benefits at any time. We will do our best to provide you with the most current guidance. Each case is specific and it is advised that you contact an experienced immigration attorney if you have questions regarding your situation.