



International Services Office

Pre-Arrival Orientation

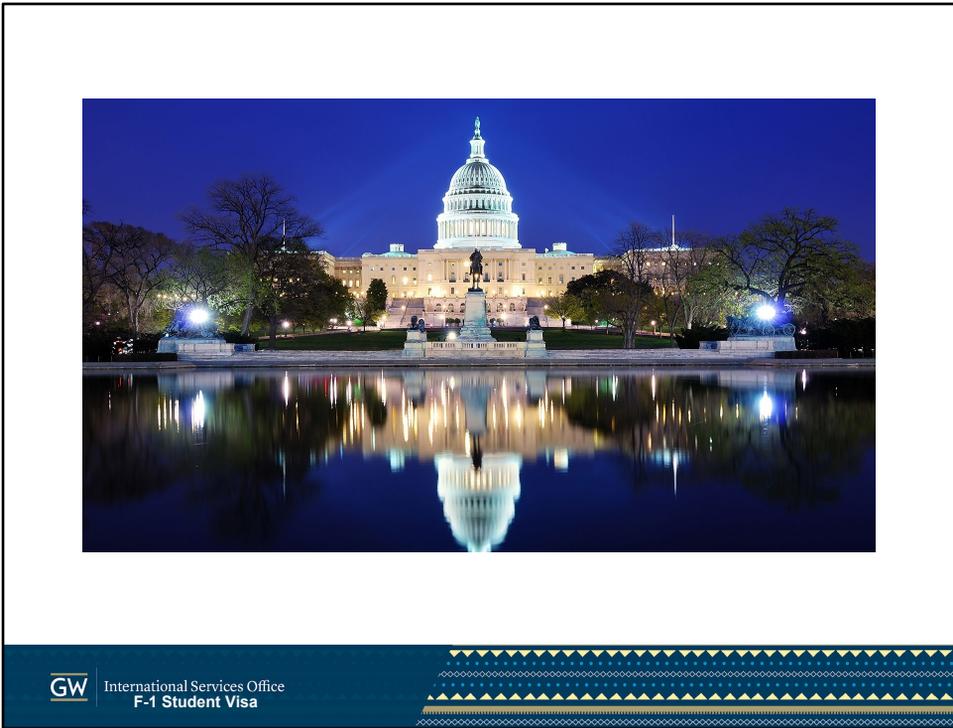
THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

F-1 Student Visa

Hello and thank you for taking the time to watch this short pre-arrival video that will help you to prepare for your arrival in Washington, DC and George Washington University as an F-1 student.



We are so excited to welcome you to GWU! Located in the heart of the nation's capital (Washington, DC) the GW urban campus offers you a world of opportunity.



The city offers a variety of museums, events, outdoor spaces, and foods from around the world as well as diverse neighborhoods to explore



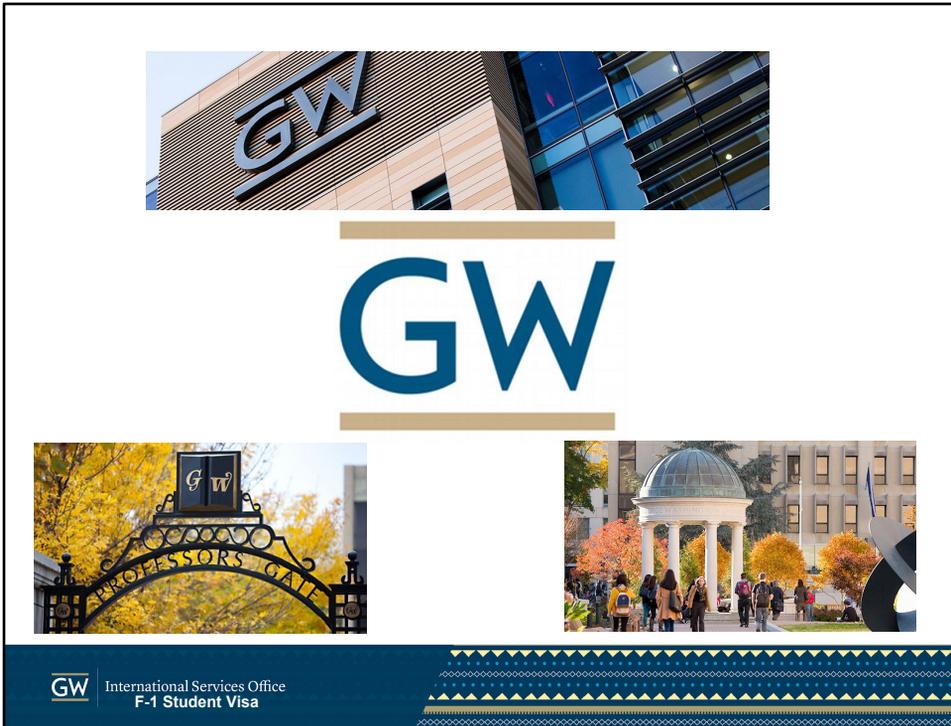
GW International Services Office
F-1 Student Visa

The city also allows each visitor the chance to explore with many opportunities that are free and walkable, such as monuments and memorials on the national mall or any of the famed Smithsonian museums. Within walking distance of GW you are able to explore, for example, the internationally recognized Cherry Blossoms near the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial each Spring, walk along the reflecting pool of the Lincoln Memorial and even walk on the National Mall to one of the world renowned Smithsonian museums.



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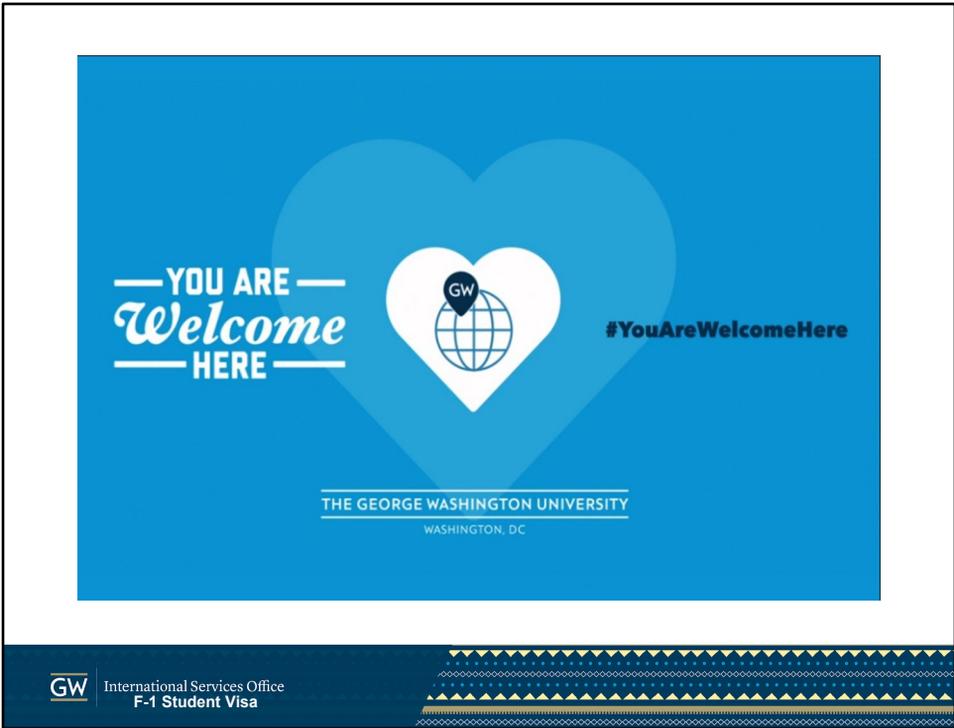
For those events that are not within walking distance, there is the extensive transportation system called WMATA which has a metro and bus system that can bring you all around the District of Columbia (DC), Maryland, and Virginia (also known as the DMV). GW even has its own metro stop - Foggy Bottom- GWU station.



GW is a welcoming campus proud of our diversity, with centralized spaces to study and hang out, world renowned faculty, and state-of-the-art buildings. You are certain to have an unparalleled academic experience.



Currently, we have over 130 countries represented on our campus.



We are excited for you to join our community and add your unique background and experiences! You are welcome here.

International Services Office - ISO

Marvin Center 5th floor

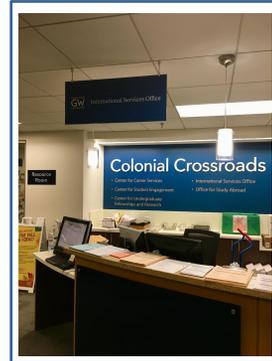
- 800 21st Street, NW Suite 505
- Washington DC 20052

Hours of Operation:

- 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday
- 10am – 4pm during winter break and summer break
- Closed on Weekends/University Holidays

Contact Information

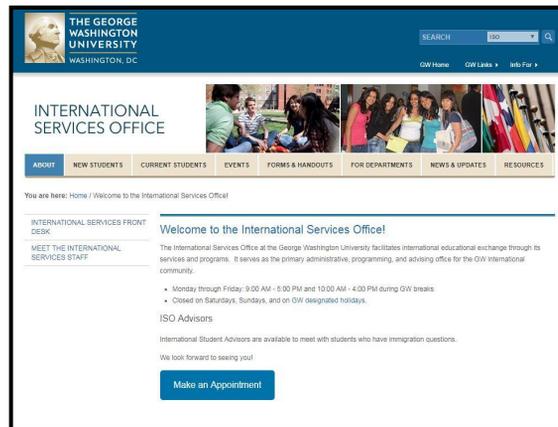
- Phone: 202-994-4477
- Website: internationalservices.gwu.edu



Email: iso@gwu.edu

While you are an international student at GW, you will work closely with the International Services Office, also known as the ISO. The ISO has dedicated advisors to assist you through all of your immigration questions and help you maintain your F-1 status throughout your program. We are located in the Marvin Center on the Foggy Bottom campus, two blocks from the GWU-Foggy Bottom Metro station. We are open regular business hours and our contact information is listed here.

ISO Website



Internationalservices.gwu.edu

Before you arrive, please visit our website to find useful information to help you to prepare for your arrival at GW. Once you arrive on campus, this will be your primary source of information which you can access at any time. For example, you can find visa benefit information, request forms, and also schedule an appointment with your ISO advisor. Take some time before you arrive to become familiar with the website.

Mandatory In-person & Online E-Check In

Before arriving at GWU:

1. ISOGateWay → Begin Online E-Check In

- Begin this process in your home country
- Requires you to upload copies of your I-20, passport, visa
- Sign up for orientation

After arriving at GWU:

2. In Person Check In @ ISO

- Come to ISO in the Marvin Center with your passport

3. ISOGateWay → Complete Online E-Check In

- Complete the online e-check in by uploading your I-94 and updating your US address in GWeb

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Because you are an F-1 student, you are required to check in with the ISO to provide your documents for visa compliance. You are able to begin this required check in process once you obtain your form I-20 by using the ISO international student portal called the ISO GateWay! You will use this portal throughout your academic program at GW so take some time before you arrive to become familiar and if you have questions about it or have difficulty accessing the ISO GateWay, please email us at iso@gwu.edu.

ISO Gateway



- Online e-check in
- Register for ISO orientation
- Submit benefit requests
- Request updates to your immigration record

ISOGateWay

Welcome to the ISOGateWay Services Login Page

The International Services Office at the George Washington University facilitates international educational exchange through its services and programs. It serves as the primary administrative, programming, and advising office for the GW international community.

- Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM during GW breaks
- Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and [GW designated holidays](#)

Questions?

If you have a question for the International Services Office, International Student Advisors, the following options are available:

- Email iso@gwu.edu
- Visit **Drop-in Advising** - Available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Colonial Crossroads lobby, Monday - Thursday, 11:30 - 3:30 PM for advising that will take no more than 5 minutes
- **Make an Appointment** - Appointments booked through the following links are individual appointments with an ISO Advisor, which require more extensive advising than via can provide during Drop-in Advising hours. Advising options include in-person, phone or Skype appointments. [To access the Advising Appointment system click here!](#)

Student requests are processed within a 10 business day or less turnaround time frame. Please plan ahead and submit your requests to the ISO front desk (or via the ISOGateWay portal as applicable) at least 10 business days before you need them to be approved. Please remember that weekends and holidays are not considered business days.

Be sure to submit complete requests including all the required documents to avoid delays in processing.

To access your ISOGateWay portal, please click on the 'Login' button located in 'Full Client Services for Students & Scholars.'

Full Client Services for Students & Scholars

Secure services requiring login with your institutional Network ID and password. These services include:

1. View and update information on file
2. Submit electronic form (e-form) requests for travel planning, reduced course load authorization, program extensions, etc.
3. Access alerts and notes on file that require action in order to maintain legal status

[Login](#)

Limited Services for Students & Scholars

Limited services requiring login with your University ID number and date of birth. These services include:

1. Limited student services like registration for orientation or SEVIS transfer-in.
2. Limited initial intake forms for J-1 scholars or H-1B employees.

These services will NOT provide all the functionality of the full client services.

[Login](#)

For example, not only will you check-in through the ISO Gateway, but you can also register for your ISO orientation and later submit benefit requests as well as requests to update your immigration record.

Full Client Services for Students & Scholars

Secure services requiring login with your institutional Network ID and password. These services include:

1. View and update information on file
2. Submit electronic form (e-form) requests for travel signatures, reduced course load authorization, program extensions, etc.
3. Access alerts and notes on file that require action in order to maintain legal status

[LOGIN](#)

Limited Services for Students & Scholars

Limited services requiring login with your University ID number and date of birth. These services include:

1. Limited student services like registration for orientation or SEVIS transfer-in.
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[Limited Services](#)

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To log in after going to isogateway.gwu.edu, click on the the blue log-in button!



ISOGateWay

 Secure Online Session

Ashley Test

Campus: Main Campus

Network ID: akoerner

ISOGateWay Home Page
 Biographical Information
 F-1 Practical Training
 J-1 Student Services
Logout of ISOGateWay

ISOGateWay Services Home Page

Online Services for International Students, Scholars, and Staff: Update your institutional information, request signatures, work authorization, certificate of enrollments, sign-up for sessions, and more.

SEVIS Status Information	Options
SEVIS ID: Status: Initial Level: Student Masters Program Start: Program End:	<input type="checkbox"/> View cases closed before today <input type="checkbox"/> View correspondence and notes older than 60 days

GW International Services Office



You will be brought to your specific profile page where you can see all requests and info about your immigration status, and also submit new requests. Remember, right now your priority is begin your online check in through this portal and until you complete this process your home page may look slightly different.

Maintaining your F-1 Visa Status

1. Keep your documents safe and valid for the duration of your program
2. Update the ISO when changes to your program or major life changes occur so we can update your SEVIS record, and maintain full-time enrollment
3. **If you are uncertain if something is allowed, ASK!** Your ISO advisor is here to help you navigate your immigration status and help!



Maintaining your F-1 Visa Status

1. Keep your documents safe and valid for the duration of your program

2. Update the ISO when changes to your program or major life changes occur so we can update your SEVIS record, and maintain full-time enrollment

3. If you are uncertain if something is allowed, ASK! Your ISO advisor is here to help you navigate your immigration status and help!



Keep your documents safe and valid for the duration of your program. What does it mean to keep your documents safe and valid?

Maintaining your F-1 Visa Status

1. Keep your documents safe and valid for the duration of your program

2. Update the ISO when changes to your program or major life changes occur so we can update your SEVIS record, and maintain full-time enrollment

3. If you are uncertain if something is allowed, ASK! Your ISO advisor is here to help you navigate your immigration status and help!



Our second rule is to update the ISO when any changes to your program or major life changes occur so we can update the SEVIS record, and also for you to maintain full-time enrollment.

SEVIS

STUDENT EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM

- Governmental database housing information about your specific visa status
- Must be updated within **10 business days** with any changes in:
 - Name/Biographic information
 - Address, phone number and email address
 - Current enrollment
 - Employment and/or funding
 - Dependents (Spouse or children under age 21)
- Please check your e-mail **regularly** for updates regarding your immigration status and all ISO communications
- Information must be accurate for benefit requests (CPT, travel signatures, OPT, etc.)

All major changes affecting your F-1 status must be reported in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, also known as SEVIS. Please review the examples given here to understand the types of changes that must be reported. It is the responsibility of you, the student, to report changes to the ISO in a timely manner.

Full Time Enrollment – The Basics

- **Undergraduate students:** 12 credits per semester
- **Graduate students:** 9 credits per semester
- **Online courses:** Only 3 credits per semester can count towards full-time status – Cannot SOLELY be enrolled in online coursework
 - Speak with your ISO advisor **before** enrolling in online coursework
- **Summer enrollment:** Only required **if** it is your final term or a required term for your program
 - Full-time summer:
 - 12 credits Undergraduate
 - 6 credits Graduate



Maintaining your F-1 Visa Status

1. Keep your documents safe and valid for the duration of your program
2. Update the ISO when changes to your program or major life changes occur so we can update your SEVIS record, and maintain full-time enrollment

**3. If you are uncertain if something is allowed, ASK!
Your ISO advisor is here to help you navigate your
immigration status and help!**



Lastly, always ask if you are uncertain about anything for your visa status! We are here to help you navigate your immigration status so can benefit fully from your time in the United States. We look forward to helping you.

Other Benefits Available

- **Travel Signature**
- **On-campus employment**
- **Off-campus Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**
- **Post-completion Optional Practical Training**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- **Authorization to drop below full-time enrollment**



All additional benefits are subject to eligibility requirements. Speak with your ISO advisor after you have arrived to GW for more information.

As an F-1 student there are many other benefits that you may be eligible for during your time here. We will go into further detail about the benefits listed here during your ISO orientation once you arrive.

What can the ISO do for you?

- Maintenance of your F-1 SEVIS record
- F-1 immigration advising and benefit processing
- Campus referrals and resources
- GW community information
- Immigration workshops
- Events and cultural programming throughout the semester



In addition to immigration advising, the ISO offers many other services to include campus referrals, resources, events and cultural programming throughout the year. Please check our website and your official GW email for more information.

REMEMBER

- Your F-1 visa is your responsibility. If you are uncertain about **anything** regarding your visa status, speak with your ISO advisor **first**.
- Check your GW email **frequently** for immigration updates and communications from the ISO. This is your official U.S. email address.
- Complete your mandatory **online** check-in as soon as possible.
- **Register** for the appropriate ISO Orientation session you will attend. Attendance at orientation is mandatory and required by your F-1 visa regulations.

Now, remember, the ISO is here to support you with all your immigration needs. However, please know that your F-1 visa is your responsibility. If you are uncertain about anything regarding your visa status, speak with your ISO advisor first. Please be sure to check your GW email frequently for immigration updates and communications from the ISO. This is your official U.S. email address. Make sure to complete your mandatory online check-in as soon as possible via the ISO Gateway. And register for the appropriate ISO Orientation session you will attend. Attendance at orientation is mandatory and required by your F-1 visa regulations.

Stay connected!



 International Services Office
F-1 Student Visa

Thank you for your attention and time. For all the latest news and events from the ISO, follow us on Twitter and Facebook. We can't wait to welcome you to campus and to see you at the ISO International Student Orientation.