

Instructions for Applying for a Social Security Number (SSN) (For Students in F-1 Status)

The Social Security Administration (SSA) issues social security numbers to eligible international students who have resided in the United States for a minimum of 10 days, preferably a few weeks. A social security number is a unique, 9-digit number used for taxpayer identification, income reporting, and record-keeping. It is required to work legally in the United States. Once you have been issued a social security number, you keep the same number for your lifetime. If you lose your social security card, you can apply for a new one using the same number.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN HOW YOU CAN APPLY FOR A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD!

Beginning August 13, 2012 all applicants requesting a new social security card or replacement card must do

Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Listed below are the requirements for the social security number (SSN) and the steps you must follow to file your application. If you have any questions about the information or need assistance, please contact the International Students Office in room 1109 Hunter East by phone or via email.

Step I: MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Social Security Office has established specific guidelines that all international students in **F-1** status must follow in order to apply for an SSN. An important requirement within the guidelines is that students must file their completed applications in person and at a local office in their neighborhood. To find the office nearest you, visit the Social Security office locator page at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>.

Additionally, the Social Security Office requires that students bring original documents with them to prove their:

- a) legal status in the U.S.
- b) age and identity
- c) school enrollment status
- d) work authorization

Step II: MAKE A CHECK LIST OF THE REQUIRED ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

You can use a combination of documents to meet the eligibility requirements listed above. For example, you can use your passport to prove your legal status in the United States, as well as your age and identity. Please remember to make a copy of each document you plan to include with your SSN application. The Social Security Office will need these copies to verify the information you provided on your application.

Documents to prove your legal status in the U.S. (You must bring all 3!)

- ☐ *SEVIS I-20*
- ☐ *Unexpired passport with appropriate visa stamp and biographical information*
- ☐ *Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94) or F-1 Status Approval Notice*

Documents to prove your age and identity (You only need 1 from the list below!)

- ☐ *Unexpired passport with appropriate visa stamp and biographical information*
- ☐ *Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from the United States Immigration Office*
- ☐ *Birth Certificate (if available)*

Documents to prove school enrollment status

- ☐ *School letter from the international student adviser on official stationery certifying your current enrollment status in the college (example: full-time student, engaged in OPT, etc.)*

Documents to prove legal work authorization (You must bring both documents in your employment category!)

a) On-campus Employment (includes fellowship stipends or assistantships)

- ☐ Letter of employment or employment offer
- ☐ On-Campus Employment Verification form signed and stamped by international student adviser

b) Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- ☐ Letter of employment offer
- ☐ Current SEVIS I-20 endorsed for CPT and signed by international student adviser

c) Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- ☐ Current SEVIS I-20 endorsed for OPT and signed by international student adviser
- ☐ Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from the United States Immigration Office

Step III: *VISIT THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICE TO REQUEST SCHOOL DOCUMENTS*

After you put all of the required documents together, please contact the Hunter College International Students Office. The International Student Adviser can provide you with:

- An endorsement (signature) on your SEVIS I-20 required for CPT or OPT employment
- A signature on the F-1 status verification form required for on-campus employment
- A school introduction letter certifying your enrollment status at Hunter College

Please be advised that the U.S. Social Security Administration may require additional documents before approving your request for an SSN. You can get a complete list and more information by visiting their website at www.ssa.gov. Once your documents have been accepted, the Social Security office will verify the information you provided with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. If your application is approved, you will receive your new card within 3 to 4 weeks.