

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FAQ

1. What is the most important obligation I need to fulfill as an International student in the USA ?

Maintaining your student status is the most important duty as a student. Details of precautions that need to be taken found here: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/maintainingstatus.htm>

2. How do I apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT)?

Find details of the application process here: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/opt.htm>

3. How do I apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT)?

Find details of the application process here: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/cpt.htm>

4. How do I apply for a visa to Canada ?

Find details of the application process here: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/can-am/washington/visas/default-en.a>

5. How many courses do I need to take per quarter at Drexel?

All international students are obligated to take a minimum of 3 courses (9 credits) per quarter at Drexel. However, exceptions can be made in cases of illness (need doctor's certificate) or if a particular student is carrying out RA/TA duties. How to need to fill-out the less-than-full-time status form.

6. Where can I find the less-than-full-time certification form?

Find it here: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/FT%20Certification.pdf>

7. In order to request specific services from the ISSS, what do I need to do?

You need to fill out this service request form: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/ServiceRequest.pdf>

8. I am planning to invite my family (living in my home country) to my graduation ceremony or just to visit me. Are there formalities that I need to take care of?

Yes, your family will require a valid 'reason for the visit' at the US consulate in your home country. In order to facilitate this you can request the ISSS to provide you with a Family Invitation Letter. To request this letter from the ISSS, download the form: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/Family%20Invitation.pdf>

9. I need to extend my I-20 in order to maintain my student status. How can I do that?

You will need to complete and submit the Program Extension form that can be downloaded from here: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/ProgramExtension.pdf>

10. How often am I allowed to take a vacation i.e. a quarter off?

You can be eligible for a vacation only if you've maintained a full-time status in at least 3 consecutive previous quarters.

11. If I decide to take a vacation during one of the four quarters at Drexel, how can I make sure that I don't go out of student status?

You need to inform the ISSS about it by completing and submitting the vacation period form: <http://www.drexel.edu/ProgramExtension.pdf>

12. I would like to improve my English speaking and written skills. Are there any special courses I could take?

Yes, at the English Learning Center : <http://www.drexel.edu/elc/>

13. Being an International Student, am I still obligated to pay taxes?

Yes, you can find details about paying taxes here: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/taxes.htm> and here: <http://www.drexel.edu/depts/compt/taxoffice/international/index.html>

14. I am currently looking for apartments to rent. Where can I look for them?

You need to contact realtors and set up an appointment with them to review possible housing options. A list of realtors near Drexel campus can be found here: <http://mem.drexel.edu/mega/announce/RealtorsList.pdf>

15. I need to open a bank account. What banks are located in University City ?

There are quite a few banking options with variety of special services for students. These services change yearly and you should contact these banks: <http://mem.drexel.edu/mega/announce/LocalBanks.pdf> directly and choose one that suits your needs.

16. What forms of ID are important for a student in the USA ?

The most important identification number is the Social Security Number (SSN). Besides SSN you will need to get a Drexel University ID to access all restricted access buildings ex. Library, and services ex. shuttle service, of Drexel. It is also recommended to apply for a State ID or Drivers License, as these are the only acceptable proofs of age besides passport which is not recommended to be carried around. International students require a letter from the ISSS: <http://www.drexel.edu/iss/> and instructions to obtain the above mentioned ID's can be read here: <http://mem.drexel.edu/announce/StudentIDSSNandDL.pdf>

17. How can I find a person in Drexel?

You can use the Drexel Directory: <http://www.drexel.edu/search/> .

18. Where can I do my grocery?

If you plan to live in the University City , the Drexel shuttle runs via the Fresh Grocers, a grocery store located at 40t Walnut St . Go to their website here: <http://www.thefreshgrocer.com/about.cfm?storeID=727>

19. I would like to go out for movies with a couple of my friends, where can I find a theatre?

Here is a list of theatres close to Drexel: http://www.movietickets.com/house_list.asp?ShowDate=0&SearchZip=191

20. What are the timings of Drexel Shuttle services and their routes?

Find Dragon route schedule here: http://www.drexel.edu/facilities/dragon_route.htm

Find Blue route schedule here: http://www.drexel.edu/facilities/blue_route.htm

Find Gold route schedule here: http://www.drexel.edu/facilities/gold_route.htm

21. If I have further queries, is there any GSA representative I could contact?

You can contact Shailesh Gangoli, GSA International Students Chair: spg32@drexel.edu

Visit the official GSA website [here!](#)