

The **VISA** Series

VCU International Student Achievement Series



GEO Immigration Services

Fall 2024



VCU

Global Education Office

The VCU International Student Achievement (VISA) Series will consist of weekly, advisor-led workshops, focused on topics relevant to VCU's F-1 students.

The **CALENDAR** of workshops for the **Fall 2024** semester is as follows:

F-1 Employment

Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)

We know that the training experience in your major gained through [post-completion OPT](#) can play a vital role in bringing to life the concepts learned in the classroom. We also know that applying for OPT and complying with OPT regulations can seem a bit daunting. These workshops are intended to help offer you clarity and confidence as you navigate the process.

This workshop is intended for students who are graduating at the end of the current semester.

Every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

August 27th - December 3rd*

**Except for November 5, 2024 (U.S. Election Day)*

[Register Here](#)

Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Gaining hands-on professional experience prior to graduation can be vital for preparing students to enter/reenter the workforce. [Pre-completion OPT](#) authorization will permit you to engage in practical training in your field while simultaneously completing your coursework. This workshop is ideal for students with training opportunities that do not meet the academic requirements for CPT.

September 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. [Register here](#)

November 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

[Curricular Practical Training](#) (CPT) is a great option for students whose program of study requires participation in an experiential learning activity like an internship or who wish to take an internship-type class to satisfy a degree requirement. This workshop will cover the regulatory framework for engaging in academically-aligned practical training, eligibility criteria, and the process for requesting CPT authorization.

August 27, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. [Register Here](#)

September 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

September 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

October 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

December 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

On-Campus Employment

Working on campus is a great way to gain some valuable experience to add to your resume, engage with the campus community, and earn a bit of extra money. F-1 students interested in applying for [on-campus employment](#) are invited to attend this workshop.

August 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. [Register Here](#)

October 1, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

Specialized On-Campus Employment Workshops

F-1 On-Campus Employment for Graduate Assistants (GAs)

Working on campus as a Graduate Assistant (GA), Graduate Research Assistant (GRA), or Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) is a great way to gain some valuable experience to add to your resume, engage with the campus community, and earn a bit of extra money. F-1 students starting GA positions here at VCU for the 2024-2025 academic year are encouraged to attend this workshop to familiarize themselves with the on-campus employment restrictions and the procedures for obtaining a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN).

August 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

F-1 On-Campus Employment & the On-Campus Job Search

F-1 students interested in applying for on-campus employment are invited to attend this workshop to discuss their eligibility and get a list of resources to support their job search.

August 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

Co-Presented with [VCU Career Services](#)

Maintaining F-1 Status

The Basics: Maintaining Your F-1 Status

A key component to your success as an international student in the U.S. is understanding the F-1 regulations. In this workshop, we will provide a brief overview of the [regulatory requirements for F-1 students](#) and outline the processes for maintaining your SEVIS record and your F-1 status.

August 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

August 29, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. [Register Here](#)

F-1 Travel

Traveling outside of the U.S. as an F-1 student requires a significant amount of pre-planning. This workshop will cover a number of [travel-related topics](#), including the process for obtaining a travel signature, renewing an expired F-1 visa, and gathering the proper documentation to present upon reentry. Anyone looking to take a vacation or return home to visit friends and family is encouraged to attend.

October 31, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. [Register Here](#)

November 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. [Register Here](#)

December 4, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

Post-Graduation Planning for F-1 Students

Deciding what to do after graduation can be a challenge for any student. For F-1 students, this comes with the added responsibility of [maintaining your status](#). Our *Post-Graduation Planning* workshop will outline the options available to students completing their program of study at the end of the semester, including getting a new I-20 to begin a new degree program, transferring out, training and employment, and more!

October 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. [Register Here](#)

November 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. [Register Here](#)

All virtual workshops will be delivered using the Zoom platform. To access your VCU Zoom account, please visit vcu.zoom.us and log in with your VCU credentials.

After you register, we recommend that you add your workshop details to the Gmail (Google) calendar associated with your student account. Instructions for importing Zoom meetings to your Gmail calendar can be found in the [Zoom Support Center](#).