The VISA Series

VCU International Student Achievement

GEO Immigration Services

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

In response to your feedback, we will be offering both virtual and in-person workshops this semester!

The **CALENDAR** of workshops for the **Fall 2023** 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.

September 12th – December 5th*

*Except November 7th and November 21, 2023 (Election Day in the U.S. and Fall Break)

[Register](#)

### 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.

**Virtual Workshops**

September 21st at 11:00 a.m.

[Register](#)
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.

Virtual Workshops

September 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Register

September 13th at 10:00 a.m.

Register

October 18th at 2:00 p.m.

Register

November 16th at 3:00 p.m.

Register

December 5th at 12:00 p.m.
**Register**

**In-Person Workshop**

October 3rd at 3:00 p.m.

Location: 912 W Grace Street, 3rd Floor, Room 3126

**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 to discuss their eligibility and get a list of resources to support their job search.

**Virtual Workshop**

October 26th at 2:00 p.m.

**Register**

**In-Person Workshop**

August 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Grace Street Center (912 W Grace Street, 3rd Floor, Room 3127)

**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.

**Virtual Workshop**

September 5th at 10:00 a.m.

**Register**

**In-Person Workshop**

GEO Immigration Services . geois@vcu.edu . + 1 (804) 828-0595 . www.global.vcu.edu
August 24th at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Grace Street Center (912 W Grace Street, 3rd Floor, Room 3126)

**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.

*Virtual Workshops*

November 15th at 10:00 a.m.

[Register](#)

December 7th at 2:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

*In-Person Workshop*

November 2nd at 12:00 p.m.

In-Person Location: TBD

**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!

*Virtual Workshop*

November 27th at 1:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

*In-Person Workshop*

November 10th at 10:00 a.m.

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In-Person Location: TBD

Bottom of the page

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.