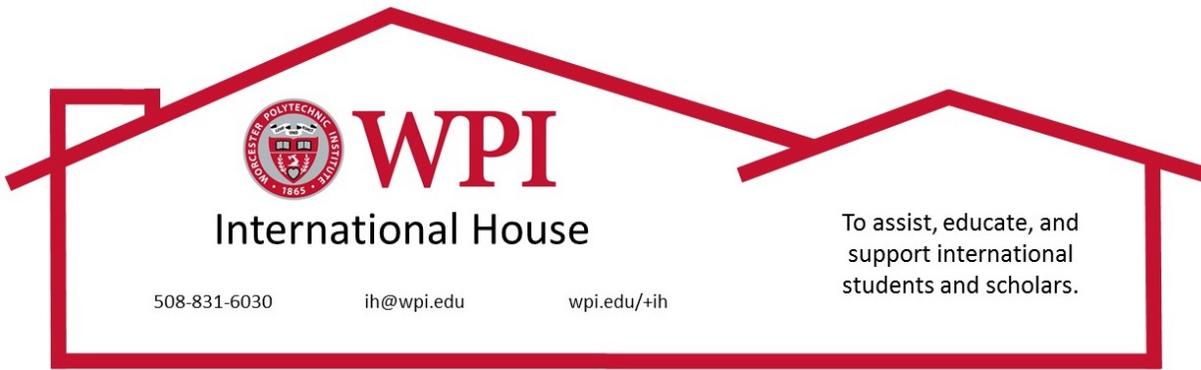


2015-2016

International Student Handbook

**Office of International Students and Scholars
Worcester Polytechnic Institute**



August 2015

Dear International Student:

Welcome to WPI! The primary objective of WPI, in hosting international students, is to enable them to achieve their academic goals. We also welcome your presence as a means of strengthening our knowledge and understanding of your country and culture.

The Office of International Students and Scholars, with the help of the International Student Council, has prepared this handbook, which contains valuable information about the college and about living in Worcester. We hope this handbook will be a helpful resource throughout your stay at WPI. It is written as a supplement to other WPI publications.

As the staff of the International House, we welcome you to WPI. The international life of WPI, as well as the WPI community, is greatly enhanced by your presence.

Sincerely,

Tom Hartvig Thomsen, Director
Office of International Students and Scholars

Colleen Callahan-Panday, Associate Director
Office of International Students and Scholars

Kathryn Remillard, SEVIS Coordinator
Office of International Students and Scholars

Janice T. Martin, Administrative Assistant VI
Office of International Students and Scholars

Billy D. McGowan, Director
English as a Second Language Program

/jtm



International Student Council

Campus Center • WPI

100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280

Phone 508-831-6706 • Fax 508-831-6032 • <http://wpi.orgsync.com/org/isc/home>

August 2015

Dear International Students,

The International Student Council warmly welcomes you to the diverse international community at WPI. You have travelled hundreds of miles, anxious and excited. College life is an adventurous and exciting but also challenging endeavor and we aim to make it educational and exhilarating.

The International Student Council (ISC) at WPI is a student organization devoted to the interests of international students. Representing more than seventy-five countries, it is an extension of WPI's commitment to diversity. The ISC brings together students from all around the world, working together to create a home away from home. Through multicultural events and exploring different academic and co-curricular issues, the ISC promotes international awareness and reinforces WPI's resolve to offer a global education to all of its students. We form a bridge between the American community and the International community of WPI as well as provide a stage for you all to showcase your colorful cultures.

The ISC is not just a student organization but a way of life at WPI. It is a close-knit community of serious yet light-hearted, ambitious, compassionate and humble individuals who work as a family to not only enhance their own learning experience at WPI but also open up the whole world to the rest of the campus. We provide a glimpse of what the world is like through several major, award-winning events like the International Dinner and the International Food Festival. Moreover, we aspire to provide you a chance to experience America by arranging trip for skiing, and shopping at Wrentham Outlets and Natick Mall. If you love Nutella, you will see a lot of Nutella going around as we go through the year. Our Midnight Breakfasts give the international students a chance to promote cuisines from different parts of the world. You are not only going to experience American culture, but also cultures from every corner of the world.

We understand that leaving your home, family and country is a very difficult venture but we will do our best to make you feel at home. You will find people who have the same taste in music as you, same cravings for certain foods as you and speak the same language as you. The first few days at WPI may be overwhelming and hectic with a constant influx of information and myriad of activities. This is meant to enhance your experience and the ISC will be there to guide you

throughout this. Our aim is to help you get the most out of your American college experience and we promise that we will do our best in this undertaking. Once you land here, you will embark on a personal journey of meeting people, finding friends and forming relationships that will not only last during your time at WPI but also your lifetime. The people you meet on your first few days will become your family in your new home at WPI. Once you are settled in and escape from your jet lag, we invite you all to visit the International House and join the International Student Council as what we do is not possible without you. We are excited to have you as a member of the WPI international community. And of course, don't forget to have fun!

Syed Shehroz Hussain (Ozzy)
President

Sakshi Khurana
Vice-President

Syed Ali Hussain
Treasurer

Naomi Otoo
Secretary

Andrew Santos
Public Relations

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INTRODUCTION

In addition to information about WPI's services and programs for international students, this handbook is written to give you an introduction to Worcester and Worcester County. Worcester County is home to 14 colleges and universities, many unique museums, musical performing groups and local theater groups, in addition to many interesting sights.

Worcester has historically attracted immigrants from all over the world including Armenians, Finns, Greeks, Irish, Italians, Jews, Lebanese, Lithuanians, Poles, and Russians. The descendants of the “old” immigrants and the newly arrived immigrants from the Caribbean, India, Latin America, and South East Asia make Worcester a culturally diverse city.

The section of the handbook covering government regulations is up to date as of July 16, 2015. Immigration regulations will change, often with short notice. It is recommended that you check with the Office of International Students and Scholars for any changes in US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations.

CULTURE DIFFERENCES

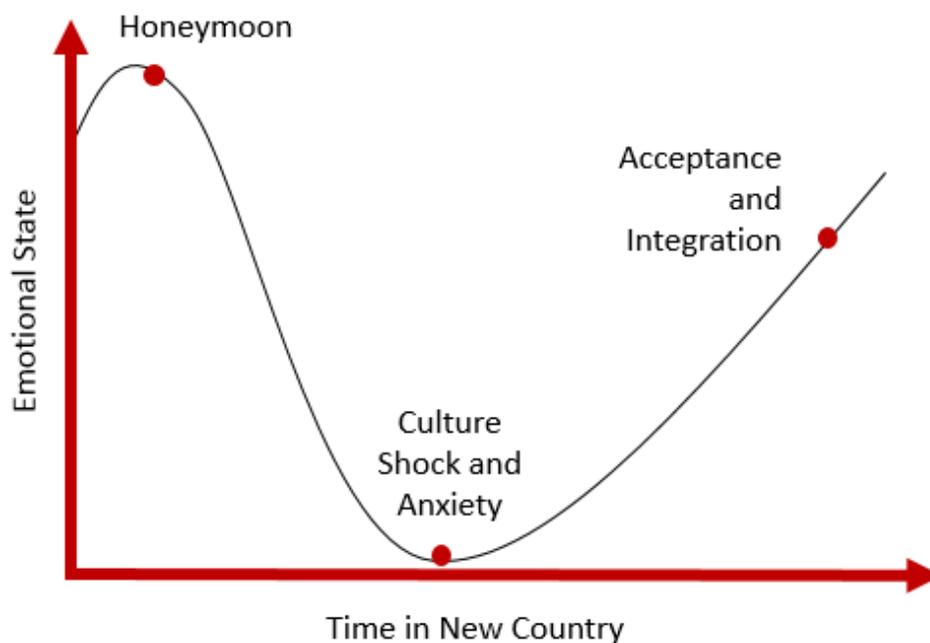
CULTURE SHOCK

"Culture Shock," or "cultural adjustment," is the term for the sense of disorientation and confusion, which almost all people experience to some degree when they arrive in another country and a new culture. When you leave what you are familiar with (food, language, family/friends, climate, etc.) and are expected to function in your new culture, you might experience culture shock.

There are some simple steps you can take to minimize the impact of culture shock:

- Listen and observe. Watch others' reaction in different situations. The more you know about how Americans behave, the less uncomfortable you will feel.
- Ask questions. Don't assume that you will always know what is going on or that you will always understand every communication.
- Try not to evaluate or judge. A lot of things will be different. It is important not to view everything as good or bad in comparison to your own culture.

STAGES OF CULTURE SHOCK



Phase 1: *Honeymoon*: When a student first arrives in a new culture, every experience tends to be “new,” “exciting,” and “interesting”.

Phase 2: *Culture Shock and Anxiety*: “What am I doing here”? Students tend to transition to this phase after 2-3 weeks in the US. This generally happens after you have settled into the routine of school and things stop being “new” and “exciting”. During this period frustration can take hold, and issues like language, food, and figuring out smaller cultural issues become draining and aggravating. This is also the time period when most students start to feel homesick.

Phase 3: *Acceptance and Integration*: At this point students start to overcome some frustrations and start to feel more comfortable in their new culture. This initial adjustment generally takes one semester, and some students go through several periods of Phase 2 and Phase 3 while adapting to American culture.

Symptoms of Culture Shock: Cultural adjustment can have physical symptoms, including sadness, loneliness, insomnia, depression, irritability, lack of confidence, feelings of insecurity, longing for family, feelings of loss of identity, or even physical aches and pains.

Dealing with Culture Shock: It is important to acknowledge that cultural adjustment is a real issue and takes time to overcome. It is okay to feel sad or to miss home, and you should allow yourself time to feel this way. However, it is also important to seek ways to connect to American people and culture, this will help you adjust and make you feel more comfortable in your new environment. Getting to know your neighbors, joining campus organizations, and participating in activities will help with this transition. Regular exercise, a proper diet and adequate amounts of rest and sleep will also help with this process.

SOCIAL CUSTOMS IN THE UNITED STATES

It is difficult to generalize about social customs in the US because the American society is very complex and diverse. Hopefully, the following information will be helpful as you adjust to your new "culture".

GREETINGS

Upon meeting each other for the first time, men (always) and women (usually) shake hands, firmly. "How do you do," "good morning," "good afternoon," and "good evening" are formal greetings. Usually people just say "hello" and "hi". (Remember that social customs differ in different sections of the country and between younger and older people.) "How are you?" is a common greeting. It is *not* generally meant as a question; instead it is an alternative to "hello." A common response to "how are you?" is "good, how are you?" instead of a detailed explanation as to how you are actually feeling.

First names are more readily used in the US than in other countries. It is acceptable automatically to use the first name of someone of approximately your same age or younger.

Men and women will be confused if you use Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms. with a first, or "given" name, as is the custom in some countries. These titles are used with the last name, or "family name". If you have any doubts about what to call someone, simply ask, "What shall I call you?" If people seem unsure how to address you, tell them the name you prefer, and pronounce it slowly, so they will understand.

The use of "nicknames" is fairly common in the US. A nickname is not the person's real name, but a name given by family or friends. Sometimes a nickname is a shortened version of the person's first or his family name – like "Al" for Alan, or "Andy" for John Anderson. Being called by a nickname is not uncomplimentary; in fact, it often is a sign of acceptance and affection.



SOCIAL INVITATIONS

Social invitations are extended by telephone or by written note or a printed invitation. Some casual, verbal comments that sound like invitations -- like "come by and see me" or "maybe we can get together sometime" -- are generally not intended to be taken literally. An invitation is not firm until a date and time and other arrangements are set.

PROMPTNESS

It is polite to arrive at or shortly after (but not before) the appointed hour. If you will be more than a half-hour late, telephone the host or hostess and say when you will arrive.

WHAT AMERICANS ARE LIKE

The notion of the US as a "melting pot" where all cultures blend together is somewhat misleading. Although some immigrants to the US have given up their original languages and customs, there are still many differences among Americans. You should also be aware of the diversity among international students attending WPI. Being an international student means that you share a common bond with students from countries other than the US. Beyond this similarity, differences between students from Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe can be great.



The United States is populated by a large and highly diverse collection of individuals, and it is difficult to generalize about "what Americans are like." As you read the typical traits listed below, remember that US society is composed of people from many social, cultural, ethnic, and national backgrounds, different economic situations, and vastly different philosophies of life.

AMERICANS ARE INDIVIDUALS

Probably above everything else, Americans consider themselves individuals. There are strong family ties and strong loyalties to groups, but individuality and individual rights are most important. If this seems like a selfish attitude, it also leads Americans to an honest respect for other individuals and an insistence on human equality.

AMERICANS ARE DIRECT

Honesty and frankness are more important to Americans than "saving face." They may seem blunt at times, and they may bring up topics and issues which you may find embarrassing, too controversial or even offensive. Americans are quick to get to the point and do not spend much time on formal social amenities. This directness encourages Americans to talk over disagreements and to try to patch up misunderstandings themselves, rather than ask a third party to mediate disputes.

AMERICANS ARE VERY INFORMAL

International students may consider this cross-generation, cross-class informality disrespectful, even rude, but it is a part of US culture.

AMERICANS ARE GENERALLY COMPETITIVE

They place a high value on achievement, and this leads them to compete against each other.

AMERICANS ARE FRIENDLY, BUT IN THEIR OWN WAY

In general, friendships among Americans tend to be shorter and more casual than friendships among people from other cultures. This has something to do with American mobility and the fact that Americans do not like to be dependent on other people. Americans also tend to "compartmentalize" friendships, having "friends at work", "family friends", "school friends", etc.

AMERICANS ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS

Some questions may to you seem pointless, uninformed, or elementary. Someone you have just met may ask you very personal questions. No impertinence is intended; the questions usually grow out of a genuine interest.

AMERICANS ARE TIME-CONSCIOUS AND VALUE PUNCTUALITY

They keep appointment calendars and live according to schedules. They usually are on time for appointments.

CAMPUS FACILITIES AND SERVICES

What does WPI offer to complement your academic education? There are several learning and recreational resources on campus that you can use to complement your classroom activities. A brief description of these services will give you a general idea of how and when you can use them.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

The International House, also known as the Office of International Students and Scholars, functions as a center for international education by drawing on the resources on campus, such as international students and scholars, faculty and students returning from overseas experiences, and international faculty members. For our international students and scholars, the International House also helps in creating a sense of community. The house serves as the venue for a variety of programs throughout the year, such as tax workshops, OPT workshops, ESL classes, and more.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR

The international student advisors, Tom Hartvig Thomsen, Colleen Callahan-Panday, and Kate Remillard are here to serve you, so do not hesitate to bring your concerns and questions to the International House. The international student advisor advises international students and exchange students on a wide range of topics, which include immigration matters, social and cultural differences, financial matters, and personal concerns. The international student advisor provides programs designed to help students adjust to life in the US and to minimize the difficulties they may experience both initially and throughout their stay. The Office of International Students and Scholars publishes electronic information updates to keep you up to date regarding educational, social, and cultural activities, and changes in immigration regulations.

In addition, this office provides several services to international students such as:

- safekeeping of passports, tickets, etc.
- limited temporary housing for international graduate students and scholars
- Notary Public
- summer storage for undergraduate students
- resources for travel in the US
- tax information and workshops
- international student career workshops



NOTARY PUBLIC

Janice T. Martin in the Office of International Students and Scholars is a Notary Public. The notary services are provided free of charge. The office will charge for all photocopies done in conjunction with notary function.

Massachusetts notaries are empowered to: administer oaths and affirmations; take acknowledgments, affidavits and depositions; issue subpoena; protest commercial papers and, in certain circumstances, may be required to be present at the removal of the contents of bank safe deposit boxes and to seal and list their contents.



A Massachusetts notary may witness documents for use in other states and nations provided the notary is physically in Massachusetts when performing the notarial act. A notary public is a public servant, obligated to fulfill the needs of the general public whenever possible.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE

The Student Activities Office (SAO), located on the second floor of the Rubin Campus Center, coordinates most of WPI's 200+ campus clubs and organizations. For a more detailed description of a number of WPI clubs and organizations, you should consult the Student Activities website here: <http://www.wpi.edu/offices/sao.html>. Most organizations are also on WPI's TechSync.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

On the 2nd of November 1988, the International Student Council (ISC) was officially recognized as a student organization devoted to providing for the needs of the international student community at WPI. The ISC's many activities include collaborating with the other international student organizations on campus such as:

- Albanian Student Association (ASA) asa@wpi.edu
- Black Student Union (BSU) wpibsu@wpi.edu
- Brazilian Student Association (BRASA) brasawpi@wpi.edu
- Chinese Student Association (CSA) (Undergraduate Students) csa@wpi.edu
- Chinese Student and Scholars Association (CSSA) (Graduate Students) cssa@wpi.edu
- French Circle (Cercle Français) frenchcircle@wpi.edu
- German Club (Deutschklub) deutsch@wpi.edu
- Hellenic Student Association (HSA) wpihsa@wpi.edu
- Hispanic Caribbean Student Association (HCSA) hcsaexecs@wpi.edu
- Iranian Student Association (ISA) minashojaei@wpi.edu
- Japanese Culture Club (JCC) j-club@wpi.edu



- Korean Student Association (KSA) ksa-wpi@wpi.edu
- Muslim Student Association (MSA) msaofficers@wpi.edu
- Russian-Speaking Students and Scholars Association (RSSA) rssa@wpi.edu
- Saudi Student Organization (SSO) rashuraim@wpi.edu
- South Asian Student Association (SASA) sasa-execs@wpi.edu
- Turkish Student Association (TSA) turkish@wpi.edu
- Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) vsa-officers@wpi.edu

Since its induction, the ISC has held events such as the International Dinner, ISC Ski Trip, International Food Festival, and New York City and Wrentham Outlets trips, which are now fixed events on the ISC calendar. Although events are a major part of the ISC's activities during the year, the ISC tries to concentrate its efforts on other matters or problems that affect international students at WPI. The ISC is always open for suggestions, comments, and is always eager to help out students in any way possible.

International Student Council (ISC), Campus Center Room CC316

<http://wpi.orgsync.com/org/isc/home>

iscexecs@wpi.edu

THE BOOKSTORE

Barnes and Noble Bookseller at WPI, located in the Campus Center, sells textbooks for all WPI courses, supplies, and equipment. In addition, the bookstore offers services such as college-oriented clothing, cards, gifts and magazines, along with special ordering of any book in print. You should be aware that once a book is marked in any manner (pencil, pen, gummed stickers, etc.), it automatically becomes a "used" book as far as the publishers are concerned and the book cannot be exchanged or returned for credit.

CAMPUS POLICE AND CAMPUS SECURITY

Campus police provide services such as protection of life and property; criminal investigations and assistance in case of illness or accidents. Parking and traffic control is the most visible function of the WPI Police, but they can also help you with:



- Transportation to the hospital in case of emergency sickness
- Crime prevention programs and engravers (to permanently imprint your name/I.D. on your property)
- Escort service

The office is located at 26 Boynton Street, Founders Hall, Lower Level. You can reach them 24 hours a day/7 days a week at:

Campus Police (emergency): 1-508-831-5555

Campus Police (routine): 1-508-831-5433

SNAP/Routine: 1-508-831-6111

SECURITY NIGHT ASSISTANCE PATROL (SNAP)

The WPI Police Department sponsors WPI's Security Night Assistance Patrol (SNAP). The WPI Police Department trains and supervises student drivers who work closely with WPI Police to help students get to their destinations safely. They act as additional "eyes and ears" for the Campus Police, and also provide a mobile escort service for students during the late evening hours. You must be a WPI student and show your WPI Student ID to the SNAP van driver, and the driver will only pick you up or drop you off at a home/apartment address or an on-campus building.

To request the SNAP service or an escort please contact Campus Police at 508-831-6111. The escort service is available:

A Term and D Term: 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

B Term and C Term: 4:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.



After these hours, an officer may walk you to your destination upon request. There may be times when a mobile escort is unavailable or not deemed necessary, and a walking escort will be provided.

CAREER PLANNING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WPI's Career Development Center (CDC) provides assistance to WPI students in making post-graduation plans. The CDC coordinates a busy schedule of interviews by recruiters from private industrial firms – large and small – and government, civic, and professional organizations, along with services such as résumé critiques, and career workshops. Career planning for you as an international student can be very different from that of an American student. To better assist international students, the CDC and the International House offer a number of services in the areas of career development and planning. You can contact the CDC by phone at 508-831-5260 and by email at cdc@wpi.edu.

COMPUTER SERVICES

The IT Helpdesk, located on the main level of Gordon Library, is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. during the academic year. During the summer, the Helpdesk working hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Other areas supported by Information Technology will have hours posted on location.

If you are looking for a computer lab, the Computing and Communications Center (CCC) Web page, <http://wpi.edu/+CCC/Student/>, lists all of the present student usage computer labs along with hours of operation and equipment available at each location.

Software, such as Microsoft Office, antivirus, and Windows are available for students to download on their personal devices through Campus License Agreements.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Undergraduate Students: The Humanities and Arts Department currently offers four English courses (one each term) especially designed for undergraduate international students:

ISE 1800: *Introduction to Academic Reading and Writing for Non-Native Speakers of English*

ISE 1801: *Composition for Non-Native Speakers of English*

ISE 2800: *College Writing for Non-Native Speakers of English*

ISE 1803: *Oral Communication for Non-Native Speakers of English*

International undergraduate students whose native language is not English and who have not studied extensively in English should consider including these courses in their Humanities Sufficiency course sequence. For more information, contact Dr. Esther Boucher-Yip at efboucher@wpi.edu or in SL 109.

Graduate Students: As of Fall 2012, ***all incoming international graduate students*** (both Masters and PhDs) are required to take a one-time English proficiency test at the beginning of their first semester. School of Business students and TAs are required to take the SPEAK test (oral exam), and all other graduate students are required to take the Versant test (computerized). If you do not pass this test, you will be required to take a one-semester, pass or fail ESL course that will be reflected on your official transcript. This is to help you succeed academically at WPI.

Programs and Seminars: The WPI ESL Program offers several options for international students looking to improve their English. In the ESL Summer Institute (three-week and five-week programs), students will have the opportunity to brush up on their English skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking), strengthen their understanding of English vocabulary, and learn science and technology concepts before the beginning of the school year. Additionally, they learn how to use WPI's computer systems and programs that will be helpful during the academic year. This program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

During the academic year, the ESL program offers a course which prepares international Teaching Assistants for their new assignment. By completing the English for ITAs course, international TAs will be better prepared knowing the "rules" of the American culture while utilizing clear, concise, and appropriate language and behavior.

Finally, the ESL Program offers an ESL Seminar to provide an ongoing system of support where students can review certain aspects of the English language, American culture, and the American educational system. This program is for both undergraduates and graduates.

For questions about the English as a Second Language program at WPI or the testing requirement for graduate students, ESL Director, Billy McGowan is located in the International House and can be reached at 508-831-6033 or billym@wpi.edu.

THE WRITING CENTER

Trained Peer Tutors are available at no cost every day to help WPI students with any writing problems, especially those arising from project work. Students with writing problems of any type may be referred by faculty to the center, may make appointments on their own initiative, or make an appointment using the electronic schedule on the website. In addition to tutoring, the center has handouts on formats for reports and proposals and books on improving writing. The center works with native speakers as well as with those for whom English is a new language. Daily hours vary due to availability of tutors during each term. Check the web site for up-to-date schedules. Hours are by appointment and you can register online: [http://www.wpi.edu/webapps/regi/ccac.html/?/](http://www.wpi.edu/webapps/regi/ccac.html?/)



The Writing Center

Daniels Hall, Suite 116

Phone: 508-831-6561

<http://www.wpi.edu/+writing>

LIBRARY SERVICES



The services at the George C. Gordon Library are available to all students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the Worcester community. The library has several departments to help you in your class, homework, projects, or personal needs. The Reference Department and the Circulation Desk are two very important services you should get to know. The Reference Department can assist you in using the library, help you with research problems, and obtain books and journal articles not immediately available in the library. The WPI library provides access to library services and resources from anywhere via the library web page: <http://www.wpi.edu/+library>

The Circulation Desk lends books for a period of four weeks for undergraduates and graduate students. Also, the books and materials reserved by the faculty members (professors) for certain courses can be found there. You can borrow a course book for in-library use for up to 3 hours at no charge. This can be beneficial if you do not want to bring your textbook to campus, but want to do homework or research in the library. In addition to these services, the Gordon Library offers the following facilities: over 70 student-access computers, 4 computer labs, 19 study rooms, 371 study seats (not counting labs), and 11 tech suites. Tech suites can be rented free of charge by students to work on group projects, and each tech suite is equipped with a computer and plasma display to facilitate group collaboration. A microform area is located on the ground floor and is equipped with microfilms and microfiches containing technical reports and journals, magazines, and newspaper articles. A reading area is available with current local, national, and international newspapers, journals, and magazines. For those who get hungry as they study, the Class of 1970 Café offers students food and drink options while they are in the library. Meal plans are accepted.

If you want to obtain a detailed explanation of the library's services and facilities, we recommend that you go the library's Reference Department and speak with one of the librarians.

The Library is typically open the following hours during the academic year:

- Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
- Friday 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Library Hours occasionally vary during the academic year, especially towards the end of an academic term, and it is always best to double check on the library's website before visiting the library at <http://www.wpi.edu/academics/library/about/hours.html>.

MEDICAL SERVICES AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Health programs for WPI students consist of medical services on campus and insurance to cover the cost of hospital care off campus. Health costs in the United States can add up quickly and are often very expensive if not covered by your health insurance. Health insurance in the US is essential to cover the high cost of hospital and medical expenses. A short stay in the hospital often costs more than a year's tuition at WPI. An ambulance ride, for example, can be expensive and should not be used for minor injuries where you can take a cab or have a friend drive you to the hospital. Be aware of all costs involved before making medical decisions and what is included in your health insurance. If you are married, it is essential that you obtain adequate health insurance for your family.



HEALTH SERVICES

The WPI Student Health Center, located in the Stoddard C building on the ground floor with the entrance on Hackfeld Road, is open throughout the school year. Students who have paid the student health fee and have submitted a completed health form are eligible to use the facility. Their website is: <http://www.wpi.edu/offices/health.html>

The Student Health Center was established to provide basic health services for students. Health maintenance and health education is emphasized. A series of wellness-oriented health workshops and seminars are provided to help students learn and maintain positive and productive health styles. A team of physicians and nurses is available to provide primary care and coordinate referral services. The physicians are in the office five days a week for approximately four hours each day. When the Health Center is closed, the physicians are available by phone to evaluate and provide medical services to the students.

If you need medical attention when the Health Center is closed, please follow this procedure:

1. For the physicians “on call” dial 508-334-8830
2. Identify yourself as a WPI student.
3. The doctor “on call” will return your call as soon as possible.

Routine allergy injections are administered at no charge, by appointment, provided the student furnishes the serum, and on the instruction of the student’s allergist or physician.

Services are available on an appointment basis. These services include routine exams, emergency contraception, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, contraception counseling, and pregnancy testing and counseling.

WPI requires each entering student to complete a health form prior to registration. Students without one on file will not be allowed to register for classes.

All patient records are kept completely confidential, even to others within the college. Information relating to diagnosis and treatment may be released only with the written consent of the patient.

Student Health Services

Ground Floor, Stoddard C (Entrance on Hackfeld Rd)

Phone: 508-831-5520

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm (closed 12pm-1pm)

<http://www.wpi.edu/+health>

HEALTH INSURANCE

In accordance with Commonwealth of Massachusetts's mandatory student health insurance legislation, all students must have primary coverage for sickness. WPI offers health insurance through United Healthcare and Massachusetts Student Health Insurance Program that meets the required qualifications for student health insurance. You can find more information about WPI's 2015-2016 program here: http://www2.crossagency.com/2015-2016/pdf/wpi_summary.pdf. WPI will automatically apply this fee to your eBill, but can be waived if you choose to use a different health insurance company with comparable coverage and submit the waiver form with proof of comparable coverage. Even though this policy will fulfill the mandatory requirements, we further recommend that you consider getting a major medical policy. Another option to consider is ISO Med, which specifically offers plans for International Students (www.isoa.org).



For students on a J1 program, it is required for you to have insurance with a minimum coverage of \$100,000 per accident or illness, repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000, medical evacuation to your home country in the amount of \$50,000, and deductibles that do not exceed \$500 per accident or illness. This requirement is effective as of May 15, 2015.

To make effective comparisons among insurance policies and choose the one that offers the selection of benefits best suited for your needs or visa requirements; you need to understand some of the most important features of health insurance policies. Only comparing price (premium) could be a mistake if you later need treatment and learn that the inexpensive policy will not pay for the care you require. For more information go to <http://www.wpi.edu/offices/acc/student-health-insurance.html>.

DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNTS

Most insurance policies require the insured individual to pay a small part of the medical cost before the insurance pays anything. This amount that you must pay first is called the deductible.

CO-PAYMENT PERCENTAGE

Most insurance policies pay a percentage of your medical costs after you pay the deductible. For example, some policies pay 80% of the costs, you pay 20%. Many insurance policies pay a larger co-payment for certain types of illness, a smaller co-pay for other types. Others pay a percentage until you have paid a certain amount (called an out-of-pocket maximum), then they pay 100%.

SPECIFIED LIMITS

Some policies give specific dollar limits on what they will pay for particular services. For example, they may limit the hospital room and board charge, the doctor's fee, the surgery fees, the psychologist/psychiatrist fees, the anesthesiologist charge, etc. Other policies pay "usual" charges for these costs, meaning they pay what is usually charged in the local area. If you are looking at a policy with specific dollar limits, you can check average costs in your location to be sure that the dollar limits are sufficient to pay for all the services you may need.

BENEFIT PERIOD

Some insurance policies limit the amount of time they pay for illnesses or injuries. For example, if a policy has a 52-week benefit period, it will stop paying for a medical benefit 52 weeks after it began, even if the insured individual still requires that treatment.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

The extension of benefits provision applies if you are receiving treatment at the time your insurance policy expires and you are not eligible to renew the original policy agreement. Many companies will extend the policy and continue to pay benefits for a limited period of time.

EXCLUSIONS

Most insurance policies exclude coverage for certain conditions. It is important to read the list of exclusions carefully so that you understand exactly what is not covered by the policy.

MEDICAL EVACUATION/REPATRIATION

For international visitors in the US, coverage for medical evacuation and repatriation of remains is important. If your policy covers medical evacuation, it will pay your transportation costs if you need to return home because of a covered medical condition. If it covers repatriation, the insurance company will pay the cost of returning your remains home from the US should you die here.

PREMIUM COST

It is important to compare the cost of the policies you are considering, but keep in mind that you need to judge the policies based on the comparable coverage they provide.

Generally, when a policy costs less, it provides less coverage; you usually get what you pay for and no more. Costs shouldn't be the only factor in your decision. Far more important is being sure that the insurance protects you adequately against unexpected medical costs.

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

All of the sports facilities on campus are available for you to use according to posted hours. These facilities include an enclosed swimming pool located in Sports and Recreation Center. Other facilities that you can find in the gym and other places on campus are: tennis, squash, racquetball, badminton, basketball, volleyball courts, table-tennis, baseball, football, soccer, track fields, a fitness center, dance studio, and a rowing tank. All students must complete a release form the first time they use the Sports and Recreation Center.



Family members of students can purchase a “family membership” to use WPI athletic facilities. The forms are available on the Recreation Center website: www.wpi.edu/+reccenter

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND COUNSELING CENTER

The Student Development and Counseling Center, known as West Street House, provides a wide range of services to all enrolled WPI students free of charge.

Professional staff members offer personal counseling, wellness programming to encourage a healthy lifestyle, and seminars on stress management, study skills, job interviewing, creative decision-making, and other topics.



Student Development and Counseling Center

157 West Street

Phone: 508-831-5540

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm

Walk-In Hours: Monday through Friday, 1pm to 2pm

<http://www.wpi.edu/+sdcc>

LIVING IN WORCESTER

Throughout your time at WPI, you will have the chance to explore Worcester and the surrounding areas. The following information is designed to help you to navigate the Worcester area, set yourself up when you first arrive, find housing and apartments, and more.

HOUSING

Finding adequate housing is one of the most important tasks you have as a new student. If you make well-informed decisions about housing, you can begin your studies at WPI without the worries that inappropriate housing can create. This section has been prepared to assist you by presenting, in some detail, information on the options that exist and the resources available to help you evaluate those options.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Residence hall living at WPI offers convenience of location, camaraderie with other students, and educational sharing and exchange. Residential Services is committed to the principle that learning at college occurs both in and out of the classroom. Almost 50% of WPI's undergraduates, approximately 2,000 students, live in the residence halls. WPI offers 8 residence halls, 2 apartment complexes, and 4 residential houses. Additionally, there are limited spaces available for graduate students in houses, apartments, and Salisbury Estates.

Some of the advantages to living on campus:

- you get to know more people
- you can develop an awareness of American students as individuals and as members of a group, which might help you integrate into the WPI community
- you might improve your English

Some disadvantages:

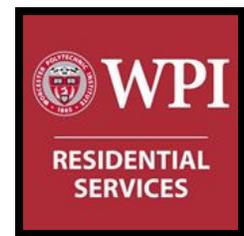
- after the freshman year there is no guarantee of on-campus housing
- there are no areas on campus designed for storing your belongings
- you must vacate your room during winter vacation unless you live in an apartment that offers residency during breaks (your belongings can stay, but you must leave and cannot access your belongings during the break)
- you cannot stay during the summer months and must remove all of your items
- if you do not have a kitchen in your apartment, you must purchase a WPI meal plan

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Graduate and undergraduate students who were unable to or did not wish to obtain housing on campus will have to find a place off-campus not owned by WPI. Finding living accommodations can require a great deal of time, as most students spend one to two weeks of intense searching to find an adequate apartment. It is not easy, especially if you are living on a limited budget. In this area, a one or two bedroom apartment is estimated to rent from \$600 to \$800. You will find below some considerations that are important when establishing a place to live.

SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE

WPI's Residential Services, located in East Hall, maintains a list of available off-campus apartments and a list of students who have an apartment but are seeking a roommate. Residential Services' staff members can assist you in locating the type of housing most appropriate for you. Several pamphlets available at the office contain good information about what you should do to find an apartment. Residential Services maintains a listing of off-campus apartments close to WPI. Another useful system, Jump Off Campus, can be accessed at this web site: <http://wpi.jumpoffcampus.com/>.



The local newspaper, the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, is another good source of assistance. As a rule, the week's most complete housing section appears in the Sunday and Friday editions. Housing advertisements are also published in Worcester Magazine, a weekly, free-of-charge paper, available at the entrance to Daniels Hall or at local supermarkets or drug stores.

Craig's List is a website where people can list all sorts of items and services for sale. It is a good place to look for apartments as well as furniture, but beware of online scams. The Worcester regional site is: <http://worcester.craigslist.org>.

Some additional resources for finding rooms and apartments are:

- Apartment Directory, 508-799-6737
- Salisbury Estates, 508-433-1694
- Highland Associates, 508-755-8484.

There are several real estate agencies in Worcester that can be helpful when looking for an apartment, but it is far better to find it yourself by using the sources mentioned above.

Additional information about housing may be obtained from the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA). The CMHA can also assist you with legal matters. It is located at 6 Institute Rd, 508-752-5519. <http://www.cmhaonline.org/>

RENTING AN APARTMENT (FLAT)

When renting an apartment you are normally asked for a one-month security deposit plus the first and last month's rent. The security deposit will be returned to you when you leave if there has been no major damage to the apartment. For your own protection, you should examine the apartment carefully before you sign the lease (contract) and get a written statement signed by the landlord about the condition of the apartment at the time you move into it. It is also a good idea to take photos of any damages before you move in to ensure you are not charged for damage that was done before you lived in the apartment. The landlord or lessor is the person who rents the apartment. The lease or contract is a legal agreement between you (tenant, lessee) and your landlord specifying the renting conditions.

In the negotiations with your landlord, you should:

- know which services and utilities are not included in the rent--electricity, gas, air-conditioning, TV-antenna, washing machine, etc.,
- ask if the landlord will pay for repairs
- know the exact duration of the lease
- learn the conditions under which you can end the lease
- ask if you can sublet to someone else and under what conditions you may do so
- be sure that the landlord knows the size of your family (Some apartment houses do not allow children or pets)

UTILITIES

Your landlord (apartment's owner) may or may not include the cost of utilities in your rent. Check your lease to know which ones you have to put into service. Contact the offices indicated below if you need any of these services.

ELECTRICITY

To obtain electric service for your apartment, you need to call the electric company (National Grid) and give them your name, address, and some sort of identification. If your apartment currently has electric service, they will transfer the service to your name. If your apartment does not have the service, you will obtain the service in one or two days. You will be billed on a monthly basis.

National Grid:

Customer Service (toll-free) : 1-800-322-3223
Emergencies (power outages): 1-800-465-1212



GAS

Gas service is obtained by calling Eversource Gas and providing them your name, address, plus your landlord's name and telephone number. After calling, you will have to wait for about 24 hours to get the service. You will be billed monthly.

Eversource Gas:

Telephone: 1-800-592-2000



WATER

Most landlords provide water and sewer service. If yours does not, call the Worcester Water Department as soon as you know the date that you will move in. When you call, you must provide the name and address of your landlord.

Worcester Water Department:

Telephone: 508-929-1300

BANKING

Americans don't usually carry a lot of cash. They prefer to pay by check, credit card, or debit card, even for small purchases. To function efficiently in the U.S. economy, you will need to open a checking and/or savings account at a local bank. Other services you may find at these banks are foreign currency conversion, traveler's checks, and interbank transfers.

OPENING AN ACCOUNT

When you open an account with a bank, most banks require two pieces of identification, such as your passport and a WPI student ID. You may open a checking or savings account at any nearby bank. Upon opening the account, you should also bring the initial deposit. You do not need a Social Security Number to open an account. At the time you open your account, you can complete a W-8BEN Form instead of giving the bank a Social Security Number. You can access this form here: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw8ben.pdf>

CHECKING ACCOUNT

A checking account is convenient for payment of bills and occasional expenses. The initial deposit may take up to two weeks to clear before you can withdraw money from your account. Once you are able to withdraw, you can use a debit card linked to your account to access your money. This can be done either at the bank or at an ATM. Additionally, you can use your checking account to automatically pay for bills if you choose through a debit card.



SAVINGS ACCOUNT

A savings account enables you to save money and accumulate interest on these savings. These accounts are convenient and safe if you have some extra money that you are not going to use immediately. Most banks pay about 0.01% - 0.03% interest credited annually.

MAKING A DEPOSIT

To make bank deposits, fill out a “deposit slip” and present this (along with the check or cash) to the bank teller. If the money is in the form of a check, you will have to endorse the check by signing your name on the reverse side. Depending on the amount you deposit, it might take a few days for the entire deposit to be available in your account.

BANK CARDS

Many banks issue cards that make deposit and withdrawal services available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week by use of an automated teller machine (ATM). These machines, which are located outside banks and in various locations such as grocery stores and on campus, are very convenient. You can avoid waiting in line at the bank and have access to cash after the bank closes or in an emergency. Banks that are members of a national ATM network allow you access to throughout the country. Usually, a fee of \$1.00 to \$3.00 is charged for this service if you are not using an ATM supported by your bank. When you are withdrawing cash from an ATM after dark, be aware of your surroundings to prevent an assault. Protect your bankcard and your secret access code as you do your cash and credit cards.

CREDIT CARDS

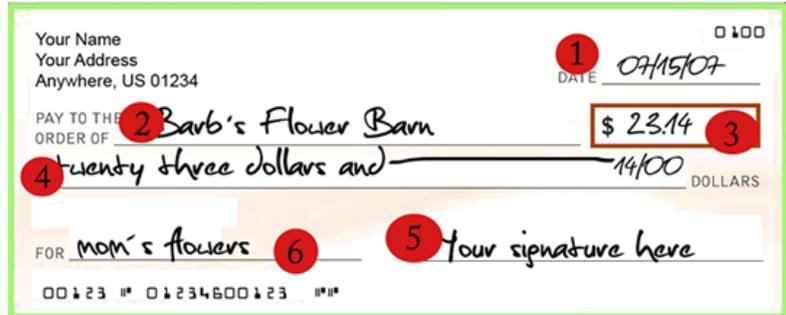


Credit cards can be convenient, especially if you unexpectedly have major expenses. However, you must understand that credit cards are seductive, and before you know it you may be in debt. Before you accept a credit card, you must be sure to understand all of your obligations. Most banks charge an annual fee of \$20 to \$40. If you are unable to pay your full balance, you will be charged high interest rates (usually 18%-29%) on the remaining balance and any additional charges you make.

WRITING CHECKS

See example check below. Checks are written by filling out the date (1), the name of the person or organization to whom the payment is being made (2), and the amount of payment (both in numbers (3) and in words (4)), which are then validated by your signature (5). Do not sign your checks until you are ready to use them and have ascertained that all written information is

correct. You can use the “for” line at the bottom to write a reminder of why you wrote the check (6). Do not make checks payable to “cash”. When cashing checks, you will be required to present one or more pieces of identification, such as your passport. A checkbook, which includes a register on which to record each deposit and check written, will help you keep an accurate balance. Monthly, the bank issues a balance statement, which includes summary statements of deposits, withdrawals, and service charges, which you should compare to your own records. Any check written for an amount higher than funds available in your account will be returned and the bank will charge you a fee.



LOCAL BANKS

There are many banking options available in Worcester. Some banks are local, which others have branches all over the United States. When selecting a bank, you should compare services and service charges. Banks most commonly used by International Students at WPI include:



Bank of America
 255 Park Ave
 Worcester, MA 01609
www.bankofamerica.com

TD Bank
 295 Park Ave
 Worcester, MA 01609
www.tdbank.com

Santander Bank
 446 Main St
 Worcester, MA 01608
www.santanderbank.com



Commerce Bank
 386 Main Street
 Worcester, MA 01615
www.bankatcommerce.com

People's United Bank
 75 Gold Star Boulevard
 Worcester, MA 01605
www.peoples.com

Webster Five Cents Savings Bank
 266 Chandler Street
 Worcester, MA 01602
www.web5.com

SECURING MONEY FROM HOME

In order to secure money from home, you may need a “certificate of attendance” letter from the International House stating that you are currently enrolled at WPI. Each country has its own requirements and restrictions on transfer of foreign currency. If you need specific information, you should contact the Education Department at your own country’s embassy. The person sending you money should have all the specific information about your bank and your account. Your bank can also provide you with their identification number so that money can be wired from your family’s bank to your bank and credited to your account.

MAIL SERVICE

WPI CENTRAL MAIL DELIVERY

Undergraduate students may pick up incoming mail from their mailboxes located in the Central Mail facility in the Campus Center. You should be advised that at no time would packages or letters be given out to anyone without a WPI ID and signature. You must pick up such packages personally. You may also weigh letters here and purchase stamps. Graduate students typically choose to receive mail at their apartment address or their academic department.

Note: When you graduate, or leave WPI for some other reason, be sure that you fill out the necessary postal forms to ensure the forwarding of your mail.

US POSTAL SERVICE

The government provides mail service in the US. It is a federal service. US mail is delivered every day except for Sundays and federal holidays.

CERTIFIED MAIL

You can use this service when you want proof of the delivery of your mail. Your mail is treated like ordinary mail, but the receiver's signature is obtained and returned to you as a proof of the delivery.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

You can use this service when you need your letters to be delivered with certain urgency. Upon its arrival at the post office in the city to which it has been sent, a special postal messenger will deliver the letter at once to the recipient's address.

REGISTERED MAIL

When you need your mail to be safeguarded, you can use this kind of mail service. Your mail will be covered by insurance. Therefore, if it is lost, the post office will pay you the value of the article.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When you change your address, there is a service that allows you to receive your mail at your new address. Special cards are available at any post office for reporting a change of address.

PAYING BY MAIL

In the US, many people pay their bills by mail or using online bill payment. If you do not have a checking account, money orders can be obtained at any bank, the post office, or local money order facilities such as Price Chopper. Cashier's checks from the bank can also be used. Cash should never be sent through the mail – send a check instead.

US POSTAL OFFICES (LOCAL)

- US Post Office (Main Branch): 4 E Central St, 508-795-3600
- US Post Office: 381 Chandler St, 800-275-8777
- UPS Store (Packages): 210 Park Ave, 508-757-1700

TRANSPORTATION

BUS/LIMOUSINE SERVICE

- **Worcester Regional Transit Authority** (City Bus)
508-791-9782, 60 Foster Street, www.therta.com
- **Greyhound Bus Lines**
508-754-1102, Union Station Bus Terminal, www.greyhound.com/home/
- **Peter Pan Bus Lines**
800-343-9999, Union Station Bus Terminal, <http://www.peterpanbus.com/>
- **Worcester Airport Limousine Service** (to/from Boston Logan Airport)
800-660-0992, West Boylston, MA www.wlimo.com
- **Knights Airport Limousine Service** (to/from Boston Logan Airport)
1-800-822-5456, Shrewsbury, MA <http://www.knightslimo.com/>

TAXI SERVICE

- **Red Cab** 508-792-9999
- **Yellow Cab** 508-754-3211

TRAIN SERVICE

- **Amtrak**
Union Station, 2 Washington Square, 508-755-0356 www.amtrak.com
- **MBTA Commuter Rail**
Union Station, 617-222-3200 <http://www.mbta.com/>

AIRPORT INFORMATION

- **Bradley International Airport**
Windsor Locks, CT, 1-860-292-2000,
1-888-624-1533
- **Logan International Airport**
Boston, MA 1-800-235-6426
- **T.F. Green Airport**
Warwick, RI, 1-888-268-7222 or 401-691-2471



GETTING A MASSACHUSETTS DRIVER'S LICENSE

As an international student on a student visa, you are required to obtain a Massachusetts driver's license if you plan to drive a car. This is because you intend to live in Massachusetts for more than 1 year to complete your program.

If you have an out-of-state driver's license which has not expired (within one year), you can simply pay the required fees for conversion to a Massachusetts license. You can make the conversion after showing proof of residence in Massachusetts, given that you do not have any physical disability or prior criminal record.

If you have a foreign (except Canada and Mexico) driver's license, you will be required to pass a Massachusetts knowledge test and a road test in order to obtain your Massachusetts license. Although you may drive in the US with your valid foreign license for up to one year from the date of entry in the US, you must still apply for a Massachusetts license when you establish residency (studying towards a degree is considered establishing residency).

Note that the one-year privilege extends to only the countries listed in Appendix A of the Driver's Manual: <http://www.massrmv.com/rmv/dmanual/index.htm>.

When getting your license, you will need to show your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94, visa, and Social Security Card. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you will have to get a denial notice from the Social Security Administration.

If you don't have a driver's license but would like to get one in the US, you should contact a school for a course in driver education. You are not required by law to enroll in a driver education course, but you are encouraged to do so as it will introduce the driving rules and expectations in the US, plus decrease your insurance premiums. You will need a sponsor who is 21 years-of-age or older if you are taking the road test on your own.

For more information on obtaining a driver's license and car registration, you should contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Registry of Motor Vehicles – Worcester Branch

611 Main Street

Phone: 508-831-5540

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am to 5pm

Thursday 10am to 6pm

<http://www.massrmv.com/>

CHILDCARE INFORMATION

There are three main types of childcare available: private, family, and in-home. Each type addresses different needs. Each type is described here to assist you in deciding which type of care is best for your child.

PRIVATE CHILDCARE

Also referred to as day care centers, these facilities are privately operated centers featuring a trained staff. Such centers primarily offer educational and developmental programs for children of varying ages. This is a good way to form a community for working parents, reinforce good child-rearing practices, and for children to gain playmates. These facilities must be licensed through the Department of Early Education and Care. The EEC, in its capacity as a licensing agency, licenses all child care programs in Massachusetts. EEC enforces strong licensing standards for the health, safety and education of all children in child care.

FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES

This type of childcare encompasses any private residence, which provides care for children during part, or all of the day. The total number of children in such a facility cannot exceed six. Such care is not a cooperative arrangement among neighbors. These day care homes must also be licensed by the EEC. In this type of childcare, children can interact and learn from one another.

IN-HOME CARE

Childcare provided by a "sitter" or nanny can be considered in-home. This type of care can include relatives. Such services are usually found individually and participants are not required to have licensing or special training. This type of care is good for small babies because of the familiar environment.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The Office of Child Care Services in Massachusetts can help answer child care questions that may arise. The OCCS also provides a referral service called the Child Care Connection. Also available are lists of referral services in the state of Massachusetts.

LOCAL WORCESTER CHILDCARE CENTERS

- **Apple-A-Day Care Center**, 18 Oxford St., 508-755-0030
- **Children's Garden**, VNA Care Network, 120 Thomas St., 508-751-6985
- **First Friends Early Care and Educational Center**, 111 Park Ave, 508-791-4884
- **Elm Park Center**, 284 Highland St., 508-752-1201
- **YWCA**, 1 Salem Square, 508-791-3181
- **YMCA**, Central Branch, 766 Main Street, 508-755-6101

PRIMARY EDUCATION

The Worcester Public School System offers a Parent Information Center to answer your questions about your child's education and options from kindergarten through high school. The Parent Information Center is located at 768 Main St., 508-799-3194, office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. <http://worcesterschools.org>.



RESTAURANTS, MARKETS, AND CAFÉS

The following listing of ethnic restaurants, markets, and cafés in Worcester (unless otherwise noted) is only a sampling of the many choices you have when eating out in Worcester. This list was compiled with the help of Worcester locals as well as International Students from WPI.

RESTAURANTS:

Afghan:

Pomir Grill, 119 Shrewsbury St, 508-755-7333

African:

Anokye Krom (Ghanian), 687 Millbury St, 508-753-8471

Fatima's Café (East African), 43 W Boylston St, 508-762-9797

Safari Café (Kenyan), 215 Chandler St, 508-799-7989

American:

Armsby Abbey, 144 Main St, 508-795-1012

Coney Island (Hot Dogs), 158 Southbridge St, 508-753-4362

Corner Grille (Thin Crust Gourmet Pizza), 806 Pleasant St, 508-754-8884

The Fix Burger Bar (Gourmet Burgers), 166 Shrewsbury St, 774-823-3327

Hot Dog Annie's, 244 Paxton St, Leicester MA, 508-892-9059

Ralph's Rock Diner (Hamburgers), 95 Prescott St, 508-753-9543

Vincent's (Meatball Subs), 49 Suffolk St, 508-752-9439

Armenian:

Shiraz Armenian Cuisine, 259 Park Ave, 508-767-1639

Brazilian:

Pampas Churrascaria, 145 E Central St, 508-757-1070

Chinese:

Chuan Shabu/Hot Pot, 301 Park Ave, 508-762-9213

Dragon Dynasty, 104 Highland St, 508-755-5588

Ming House, 217 Chandler St, 508-756-6888

Nancy Chang, 372 Chandler St, 508-752-8899

Red Lantern Restaurant, 235 Shrewsbury St, 508-795-0500

Red Pepper, 1083 Main St, 774-243-6488 (Most "Authentic" in Town)

The Loving Hut (Vegetarian/Vegan), 415 Chandler St, 508-459-0367

Greek:

Meze Greek Tapas Bar & Grill, 156 Shrewsbury St, 508-926-8115

Indian:

Bollywood Grill, 97 Boston Turnpike (Rte 9), Shrewsbury MA, 508-793-9888

Mayuri Indian Restaurant, 30 Lyman St, Westborough MA, 508-898-1888

Mirchi, 291 Turnpike Road, Westborough MA, 508-366-0090

Udupi (Vegetarian), 378 Maple Ave (off Rte 9), Shrewsbury MA, 508-459-5099

Irish:

O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W Boylston St, 508-853-0789

Italian:

Caffe Espresso Tattoria, 395 Chandler St, 508-767-1818

Dino's Ristorante, 13 Lord St, 508-753-9978

Il Forno Italian Restaurant, 65 West Boylston St, West Boylston MA, 508-835-3700

Leo's Ristorante, 11 Leo Turo Way, 508-753-9490

Via Italian Table, 89 Shrewsbury St, 508-754-4842

Volturno, 72 Shrewsbury St, 508-756-8658

Jamaican:

Belmont Vegetarian, 157 Belmont St, 508-798-8898

One Love Café, 800 Main St, 774-272-3969

Japanese:

Baba Sushi, 309 Park Ave, 508-752-8822

Kyoto, 535 Lincoln St, 508-852-5788

Sakura Tokyo, 640 Park Ave, 508-792-1068

Korean:

Westborough Korean Restaurant, 7 E Main St, Westborough MA, 508-366-8898

Latin American:

City Light's Salvadorian Restaurant, 395 Grafton St, 508-353-4777

Hacienda Don Juan (Salvadorian and Mexican), 875 Main St, 508-756-2076

Los Andes (Bolivian/Peruvian), 904 Chalkstone Ave, Providence RI, 401-649-4911

Mi Reyna Latino Tapas, 394 Belmont St, 774-823-3468

Lebanese:

Bay State Shawarma & Grill (Halal) , 86 Water St, 508-753-6000

El Basha, 256 Park Ave, 508-795-0222

Sahara Café, 143 Highland St, 508-798-2181

Mexican:

El Patron, 192 Harding St, 508-757-8000

Mexicali Fresh Mex Grill, 700 Main St, Holden MA, 508-829-7700

Mezcal Cantina, 30 Major Taylor Blvd, 508-926-8308

Plaza Azteca, 539 Lincoln St, 508-853-3536

Sol of Mexico, 538 Pleasant St, 508-756-2660

Mediterranean/Turkish:

Tandoori Halal Food, 560 Lincoln St, 774-243-7474

Zaytoon (Halal), 72 High St, Clinton MA, 978-733-4258

Pakistani:

Roti Boti, 2 Coes Square, 508-793-9900

Seafood:

Sole Proprietor, 118 Highland St, 508-798-3474

Spanish:

Bocado Tapas Bar, 82 Winter St, 508-797-1011

Thai:

Racha Thai, 545 Southwest Cutoff, 508-757-8884

Thai Island, 456 Main St, Holden MA, 508-829-8272

Thai Place, 50 Boston Turnpike (Rte 9), Shrewsbury MA, 508-425-3595

Thai Time, 107 Highland St, 508-756-7267

Vietnamese:

Anh Thu, 439 Park Ave, 508-752-1330

Anh Thu II, 91 Stafford St, 508-796-5333

Dalat Restaurant, 425 Park Ave, 508-753-6036

Pho Dakao, 593 Park Ave, 508-756-7555

Pho Sure, 114 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury MA, 508-425-3314

Saigon Restaurant, 976 Main St, 508-799-5250

ETHNIC MARKETS AND GROCERY STORES:

African:

Danco, 195 Pleasant St, 508-791-8580

Asian:

Binh An Market, 64 Green St, 508-798-6960

Chinatown Supermarket/Family 88, 877 Main St, 508-753-9988
Ha Tien Market, 892 Main St, 508-791-2220
Mekong Market, 747 Main St, 508-304-1437
Patel Brother's Indian Market, 504 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury MA, 508-842-9600
Pinoy Republic Filipino Store, 545 SW Cutoff, 508-890-8600
Sam's Market, 211 Chandler St, 508-752-9620 (small Indian section in the rear of the store)
Twin's Oriental Market, 118 Cambridge St, 508-798-2547

Latin/Caribbean:

Santiago Supermarket, 1000 Main St, 508-752-5406

Mediterranean/Middle Eastern:

Bahnan's Bakery & Middle Eastern Style Food, 344 Pleasant St, 508-796-5365
Ed Hyder's Mediterranean Marketplace, 408 Pleasant St, 508-755-0258

European:

European Bakery, 29 Millbury Street, 508-767-1651
Golemo's Market (Polish/ Eastern European), 43 Millbury St, 508-756-0086
Moscow Nights, 808 Pleasant St, 508-799-0751
Tom's International Deli, 52 Millbury St, 508-755-7295
Crown Bakery (Swedish), 133 Gold Star Blvd, 508-852-0746

CAFÉS AND COFFEE HOUSES

Bean Counter, 113 Highland St, 508-754-3125
Espress Yourself Coffee, 2 Richmond Ave, 508-755-3300
In-House Coffee, 225 Shrewsbury St, 508-363-1212
Lucky's Café, 102 ½ Grove St, 508-756, 5014
NU Café, 335 Chandler St, 508-926-8800
Worcester Art Museum Café, 55 Salisbury St, 508-799-4406, ext. 3068

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS IN WORCESTER:

A resource guide for vegetarian and vegan dining in Worcester, including many restaurant suggestions, can be found here: <http://vegworchester.com/restaurants/>

HALAL OPTIONS IN WORCESTER:

Resources for Halal restaurants and markets in Worcester and the surrounding area:
<http://www.zabihah.com/sub/United-States/Massachusetts/Worcester/37Ty4tenfV>

DINERS

"Nothing Could Be Finer Than to Eat in Worcester's Diners."

Worcester is a "living diner museum" partly because the famed Worcester Lunch Car Company manufactured diners in Worcester. Today Worcester's diners serve good food to customers from all walks of life. Eating in a diner is a must for any visitor to Worcester.



Art's Diner, 541 West Boylston St, 508-853-9705
Boulevard Diner, 155 Shrewsbury S., 508-791-4535
The Broadway, 100 Water St, 508-753-3233
Corner Lunch, 133 Lamartine St, 508-799-9866
Gold Star Diner, 68 W. Boylston Dr, 508-852-7900
Lou Roc's Diner, 1074 W Boylston St, 508-852-6888 (Cash Only)
Miss Worcester Diner, 300 Southbridge St, 508-753-5600
Parkway Diner, 148 Shrewsbury St, 508-753-9968

TIPPING AND GRATUITY

Service charges, or tips, are not added to the bill in restaurants but are expected and often needed by the waiter/waitress as the main source of income. Tips in restaurants are 15% to 20% depending on the quality of service. You don't tip in a cafeteria or places where you help yourself.

ENTERTAINMENT ON CAMPUS

The Activities Calendar, which is available from the Student Activities Office, lists the major events each month. You can also look up various student organizations on campus through TechSync to see what events are being offered.



The WPI Social Committee (SocComm) sponsors most of the activities on campus. The student-run group selects, plans, and promotes recreational, educational and social events. Student committees plan some of the more regular entertainment on campus. All committees are open to new members and offer opportunities to meet new people. SocComm offers a little something for everyone! If you're interested in joining or want an update on what's happening, contact the Social Committee Office, Campus Center, Room 314, 508-831-5509.

ENTERTAINMENT IN WORCESTER

Worcester has a very rich cultural life. The best sources of information are the weekly calendars published by Worcester Magazine or the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

THEATERS

Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts: 2 Southbridge St, Worcester, 877-571-7469 (Ticket Office). The Hanover Theatre regularly has performances of musicals, Broadway shows, comedians, and more.

PERFORMANCE CENTERS

DCU Center, 50 Foster St., 508-755-6800 (Ticket Office). The DCU Center is the area's most popular entertainment center attracting top names in music, sports, and entertainment. It is also home to the Worcester Sharks of the American Hockey League.



Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St., 508-752-5608 (Ticket Office). This National Historic Landmark serves as a performing arts center hosting a wide variety of concerts and cultural events. Among these are the unique free "Brown Bag" lunch concerts, the International Artist Series, the Travel Film Series, and the Worcester Music Festival.

MUSEUMS



Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St, 508-799-4406. The Worcester Art Museum has more than 35,000 works of art from all over the world. Classes are available for all ages, and exhibits are constantly changing. Free admission to students with a WPI ID.

Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm St, 508-753-8278. This museum is full of local history and artifacts. Learn about Worcester's Industrial history, or check out the Salisbury Mansion off of Institute Road.

SHOPPING IN WORCESTER

There are many stores in the immediate Worcester area to satisfy all of your shopping needs. The following lists include the most common locations to shop for groceries, furniture, clothing, and electronics. For a larger selection, it is recommended to go to one of the malls located close to campus.

GROCERY STORES

- Honey Farms Convenience Store, 101 Highland St, 508-438-0201
- Price Chopper, 221 Park Ave, 508-798-5178
- Shaw's Supermarket, 14 West Boylston St, 508-852-5833



MALLS

- Auburn Mall, 385 Southbridge Street, Auburn MA, 508-832-2314
- Greendale Mall, 7 Neponset Street, 508-856-9401
- Natick Mall, 1245 Worcester Street, Natick MA, 508-655-4800
- The Shoppes at Blackstone Valley, 70 Worcester-Providence Turnpike, Millbury MA, 617-232-8900
- Solomon Pond Mall, 601 Donald Lynch Blvd, Marlborough MA, 508-303-0204
- Wrentham Village Premium Outlets, 1 Premium Outlet Blvd, Wrentham MA, 508-384-0600



FURNITURE

- Austin Furniture, 199 Chandler St, 508-795-7400
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 11 Distributor Rd, 508-799-9259
- IKEA, 1 Ikea Way, Stoughton MA, 888-888-4532
- Rainbow Furniture, 112 Grove St, 508-752-9143
- Savers, 490 Lincoln St, 508-853-3653

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

As the United States seeks to develop immigration policy which balances security concerns with the desire to remain a welcoming society, we continue to see a pattern of stricter interpretations of existing regulations and introduction of new regulations in a way we have not experienced before. For international students, this means that you must pay close attention to any communication you receive from the International House regarding updates/changes in immigration regulations.

The US immigration law classifies international students in the US as temporary non-immigrant aliens ("aliens" means any person not a citizen or national of the United States). As international students, you are in the US on a non-immigrant visa, usually F-1 or J-1. If you have any questions, please don't ever hesitate to contact the International House to ask for advice. You will find many useful websites published both by US government agencies and different organizations or immigration attorneys. However, for the most accurate and up to date advice, we always ask that you rely on information provided by the International House.

The following information is meant to make you aware of your rights and responsibilities as an international student; it is not meant to be a complete listing of all government regulations as they pertain to you.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The primary objective of the Department of Homeland Security is to protect the US against terrorist attacks, but it is also an objective of the department to enhance public service. There are three major organizations under DHS are charged with enforcing immigration regulations in the US:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): The primary functions of ICE are immigration and customs investigations, customs air and marine interdiction, immigration and customs intelligence, detention, and removal.



Customs and Border Protection (CBP): As a single unified border agency, CBP is charged with border patrolling, customs service, and immigration inspection at the ports of entry (land borders, airports, and harbors). When you enter the US, your first contact will be with an agent from this agency.



US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Most adjudication of immigrant and non-immigrant benefits will be done by USCIS either at the local USCIS Office or by mailing applications to a USCIS Service Center. As a student you might be filing an application for change of status, for Optional Practical Training (OPT), or for re-instatement. These are all examples of application adjudicated by USCIS.



For more information, visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/>

PASSPORT

Before coming to the United States, you were issued a passport by your government allowing you to leave and re-enter your own country. Your passport must always be valid for a period of six months longer than you expect to stay in the US. If necessary, your own consulate or embassy in the US will extend your passport. Consult them to learn what forms and fees are required. If you have a valid US visa in an expired passport you can still use the visa as long as it is presented at the port of entry together with a new and valid passport.

You can locate your Embassy or Consulate here: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>

VISA

The US visa is the label placed by a United States consular office on a page of your passport. It indicates that the consular office has determined that you are qualified to apply for admission to the United States in a particular immigration classification. A valid visa does not ensure an alien's entry into the US. An immigration officer at the port of entry makes this decision.

A visa contains the following information:

- The visa number
- The location of the issuing consular post
- The visa classification (F-1, J-1, etc.)
- The date of issuance
- The expiration date
- The number of applications for admission to the US for which it is valid
 - The letter "M" will appear if you have indefinite entries to the US during the period of the visa's validity



The expiration date on the visa does not have any relationship to the length of time you can stay in the US, but only to the length of time it is valid to present to immigration when entering the country. The duration of your legal stay in the US will be noted on your immigration entry stamp.

FORM I-94

For those of you who have traveled to the US in the past, you may be familiar with the small white cards you filled out in duplicate on the airplane before landing. This card, called an I-94 arrival/departure record, would then be turned in at the US immigration desk at the airport and stamped by a Customs and Border Protection official before being stapled into your passport. The card proved your legal entry and status in the US.

As of May 2013, CBP has moved to an automated I-94 system, meaning the I-94 cards are now electronic. When you enter the US, the CBP officer will stamp your travel document (passport) at your port of entry. The stamp will show your date of admission, class of admission (F-1, J-1, etc.), and the date that you are admitted until, which for students is "D/S", or Duration of Status. In order to access your electronic I-94, you must log in to the Customs and Border Protection's website and answer several travel-oriented questions (name, birth date, passport number, passport country). We recommend that you do this shortly after entering the US and print a copy for your records. A printed paper version of your I-94 card is still necessary for certain processes, such as applying for a Social Security Number (SSN).

Please note that the electronic I-94 will have an expiration date at the top right corner of the page when printed. This expiration date not refer to the validity of your presence in the US. The only date that you should be concerned with is the date you are admitted until, which should read D/S. If you are concerned about this expiration date on the top of the I-94, you should be able to print a new copy of your I-94 with a future expiration date.

To access your electronic I-94 visit CBP's website <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/request.html>

MAINTAINING STATUS

The responsibility for maintaining your visa status lies with you. Being out of status can have serious consequences for your academic plans. There are several important things you must do to maintain your status:

- Keep your passport valid. Your passport must be valid for a minimum of six (6) months into the future. Addresses of embassies and consulates are available from the Office of International Students and Scholars.
- Do not work off campus without USCIS approval. To obtain approval, talk to an International Student Advisor.
- Obtain extensions as needed. Allow ample time for WPI to assist you with any application for extension of stay. Extensions must be recorded in SEVIS by an International Student Advisor.

- Maintain full-time enrollment and normal progress towards your degree. To remain in status, you must carry a full course of study every semester, except the summer term. For valid educational or medical reasons you can be allowed to carry a reduced course load. Only the International Student Advisor can approve this exception. Permission must be obtained prior to enrollment for a reduced course load.

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996 (IIRAIRA)

The provisions of IIRAIRA affect all non-immigrants, and in some cases, even immigrants (green card holders) are affected. These provisions are to inform you of what will happen if you are out-of-status and remain in the United States illegally. As an F-1 or J-1 student, you need to know, as a minimum, the following about IIRAIRA:

Unlawful presence in the US can result in up to a 10-year bar from re-entering the US. For the purpose of this regulation, you are unlawfully present when an immigration judge, a CBP officer, ICE officer, or a CIS officer determines that a status violation has occurred.

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS)



SEVIS is a tracking system for international students and exchange visitors in the US on F or J visas. The program facilitates timely reporting and monitoring of international students and exchange visitors. All F-1, F-2, J-1 and J-2 visa holders have a permanent SEVIS ID number, and all actions taken by the International Student Advisor, the US Consulate issuing initial visa, and the immigration

inspector at the port of entry will be recorded in the individuals SEVIS record in the government database. **WPI is required to keep our part of SEVIS up to date with the following information:** *Your local as well as home address, your program of study, your enrollment status, any employment we have authorized or recommended, program extension, dismissal from WPI, transfer to another school/program in the US and completion of studies date.*

The SEVIS Fee you paid when applying for your initial visa is a one-time fee. This fee is collected by the DHS to fund the SEVIS Program.

We will do everything possible to update each student's SEVIS record as we become aware of any changes, but it is ultimately YOUR responsibility to inform the International House of any changes in your circumstances. All reporting in SEVIS must be completed within specific

timeframes, thus it is VERY important that you inform us immediately when you change your address, major, etc. Furthermore, certain actions on your part require prior approval by the International Student Advisors and updated in SEVIS. If you enroll for less than full time, you need to see the International Student Advisor prior to enrolling. If you need an extension, you must apply for the extension prior to the expiration date on your current I-20/DS-2019. Finally, because we have to report your enrollment status every semester, it is very important that you adhere to the enrollment dates and completes your enrollment and registration no later than within the first week of classes.

STUDENTS WITH F-1 VISA

If you were issued an I-20 form in order to obtain your US visa, you are on an F-1 visa. Any accompanying family members will be on an F-2 visa, unless they are full-time students as well. The following is a very brief overview of the F-1 regulations.

DURATION OF STATUS

Your immigration entry stamp should have a D/S written on it. Duration of Status is defined as the period of time necessary to complete a full course of study in any educational program, plus any authorized period of practical training following completion of that program, plus 60 days in which to depart the US. The term "duration of status" is not an indication that you can stay in the US indefinitely as long as you are enrolled at a university.



I-20 FORM

The first time an F-1 student comes into contact with the Department of Homeland Security, the student must present a properly completed Form I-20. The I-20 is provided to the student by the Designated School Official from the US school the student will be attending, and is the student's permanent record of his/her non-immigrant F-1 student status in the US. The Form I-20 is also used to record work and practical training. It should remain with your passport and should not be surrendered when leaving the US. Always be in possession of your I-20, and if you are given a new I-20 at any point, you must keep your past I-20s for your records - **do not throw them away!** A new I-20 form is only required if there has been a change in your field of study, degree program, in the source or amount of funding, or if all the lines for endorsement are completed.

Please note, as of June 26, 2015, the format of the Form I-20 has been updated, and any I-20 forms printed after this date will be in the new format. Both formats of the I-20 will be acceptable until July 1, 2016. After this date, only the new I-20 format can be used.

LEAVING THE US TEMPORARILY AND RE-ENTERING

F-1 visa holders need the following documents to re-enter the US after a temporary absence:

- Valid I-20 form recently signed by one of the International Student Advisors
- Valid passport
- Valid US visa
- Verification of adequate financial support, such as bank statements
- It is recommended that you carry with you an official copy of your transcript obtained from the registrar's office
- It is recommended that you carry a Certificate of Attendance obtained from the IH
- If you are on Optional Practical Training, you must bring your valid EAD card and, if possible, a letter from your employer stating you will resume your position upon your return to the US

DEPENDENTS

Your spouse and/or children may enter the US on an F-2 visa provided they have evidence of adequate financial support. A person on an F-2 visa may NOT be employed under any circumstances. A separate I-20 form must be issued for your spouse and for each child.

TRANSFER

If you are considering transferring to another university in the US, you need to inform the International Student Advisor once you have been accepted to another school and decide to transfer. The school you are leaving needs to enter a "release" date into SEVIS and indicate the school you are transferring to. As soon as your record is released to another school, you will lose all Practical Training privileges (CPT/OPT) associated with your time at WPI, even if you have been pre-authorized to work until a later date. If you are a transfer student starting at WPI, you need to make sure your SEVIS record from your previous school has been released, and you must register within the first week of class.

OVERVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH F-1 VISA

The basic requirement for all types of employment is that you must maintain lawful F-1 status. The USCIS defines employment as work performed or services provided in exchange for money, tuition, fees, books, room and/or board, or any other benefit.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

You can work on campus provided you are maintaining your F-1 status. On-campus employment must not exceed 20 hours per week while school is in session. During vacation periods, you can work full time. In some situations, you can work off campus at a location, which qualifies as on-campus employment. You need to obtain on-campus employment authorization from the International Student Advisor before starting any employment on campus.

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT BASED ON SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

If you are experiencing severe economic hardship based on unforeseen circumstances beyond your control, you may be eligible to apply for Employment Authorization from the USCIS. You should see the International Student Advisor before applying.

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is defined as work experience directly related to the student's field of study. CPT is the employment authorization used for F-1 students on co-op (both undergraduate and graduate students), or for graduate students on internship. You must apply for CPT work authorization from the International Student Advisor. For undergraduates, you must first go through the Career Development Center to complete the proper paperwork before the International Student Advisor can process your CPT request. Graduate Students must register for academic credit for their CPT experience, and should discuss the amount of credit with their academic advisor. CPT application forms can be found on the International House website. You must be an F-1 student for one full academic year before you are eligible to apply for CPT.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is defined as a work experience directly related to your field of study. The term "optional" refers to your option of when to exercise your 12 month practical training privileges. OPT is available once per degree level, meaning you get an additional 12 months of OPT if you move from a BS to MS or MS to PhD. Under certain circumstances you can also apply for a one-time 17 month extension of your OPT known as the STEM Extension. To apply for an OPT extension, your degree must be a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) degree, and your employer must be registered in the E-Verifier database.

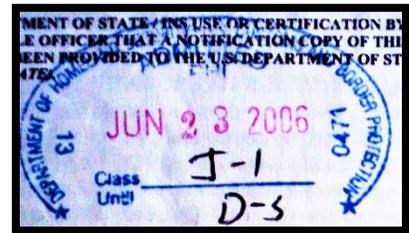
STUDENTS WITH J-1 VISA

Exchange Visitors are admitted to the US in J-1 status to engage in one of a number of possible activities, one of which is to study. The following information pertains to J-1 Student Status only. The United States Department of State administers the overall Exchange Visitor Program by designating sponsors to administer individual exchange visitor programs. The International Student Advisor who serves as the Responsible Officer for the WPI Exchange Visitor Program administers the WPI J-1 program.

A number of students attend WPI on J-1 programs sponsored by outside agencies, such as IIE, AMIDEAST, and LASPAU. The international student advisor can provide information regarding the J-1 program to students on other programs, but only the specific program sponsor can approve any benefits associated with the program. WPI cannot access the SEVIS records of those who hold non-WPI issued DS-2019s.

DURATION OF STATUS

Your immigration entry stamp should have a D/S written on it. Duration of Status is defined as the period of time necessary to complete a full course of study in any educational program, plus any authorized period of academic training following completion of that program, plus 30 days in which to depart the US. The term "duration of status" is not an indication that you can stay in the US indefinitely as long as you are enrolled at a university.



DS-2019 FORM

The first time a J-1 exchange visitor comes into contact with the Department of Homeland Security, the student must present a properly completed Form DS-2019. The DS-2019 is provided to the student by the Program Sponsor through a Responsible Officer. If WPI is the program sponsor, one of the International Student Advisors will provide the DS-2019. For exchange visitors sponsored by outside programs, such as IIE or Fulbright, your Program Sponsor will issue your DS-2019. The DS-2019 serves as the permanent record of the exchange visitor's non-immigrant J-1 student status in the US. It should remain with your passport and should not be surrendered when leaving the US. Always be in possession of your DS-2019, and if you are given a new DS-2019 at any point, you must keep your past DS-2019s for your records - **do not throw them away!** A new DS-2019 form is only required if there has been a change in your program end date, the source or amount of funding, or if all the lines for endorsement are completed.

LEAVING THE US TEMPORARILY AND RE-ENTERING

J-1 visa holders need the following documents to re-enter the US after a temporary absence:

- Valid DS-2019 form recently signed by one of the International Student Advisors if your DS-2019 is issued from WPI, or Program Sponsor if your DS-2019 was not issued by WPI
 - A new DS-2019 is required if your form will expire before you plan to re-enter the US
- Valid passport
- Valid US visa
- Verification of adequate financial support, such as bank statements
- It is recommended that you carry with you an official copy of your transcript obtained from the registrar's office
- It is recommended that you carry a Certificate of Attendance obtained from the IH

DEPENDENTS

Your spouse and/or children may accompany you on the basis of their own form DS-2019. They will get J-2 visas. Your spouse can work only if the USCIS approves his/her application for work authorization.

TRANSFER

Exchange visitors may transfer from one sponsor to another only if the first sponsor releases their SEVIS record. You can change your J-1 sponsorship either by leaving the US and re-entering with a new DS-2019 form, or by successfully transferring programs in the US through approval from your current sponsor and SEVIS notification.

EXTENSION OF STAY

As an exchange visitor, you may apply for an extension of stay two-to-four weeks prior to the expiration date of your stay. The expiration date can be found on your DS-2019. Do not let your DS-2019 expire if you have plans to continue your program.

TWO-YEAR HOME-COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT

Certain J-1 students must return home for at least two years after completing their educational program including academic training. This requirement applies to students whose program has been financed to some extent by the US Government or by their home country, or to students whose skills are needed by their home country. For details on the two-year rule and grounds for waivers, you should contact your program sponsor.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENT FOR EXCHANGE VISITORS (J-1 AND J-2)

Exchange visitors are required to have medical insurance in effect for themselves and any accompanying spouse and dependents on J-2 visa. The minimum coverage must provide:

- At least \$100,000 per person per accident or illness
- At least \$25,000 for repatriation
- At least \$50,000 for medical evacuation to your home country
- Deductibles that do not exceed \$500 per accident or illness

Students must maintain the required insurance during the duration of their J-1 status, and dependents must be covered throughout the time they are physically in the US with the J-1 visa holder. This requirement is effective as of May 15, 2015.

OVERVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH J-1 VISA

Employment is permitted only if it is an integral part of the program for which you came to the US. You may only be employed if the position is in your field of study and will not unduly delay your degree. To obtain permission for this kind of employment, you must consult the program sponsor. If you are sponsored by WPI, you must speak with an International Student Advisor. You cannot legally work until you receive the proper work authorization.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

You can work on campus provided you are maintaining your J-1 status. On-campus employment must not exceed 20 hours per week while school is in session. During vacation periods, you can work full time. In some situations, you can work off campus at a location, which qualifies as on-campus employment. You need to obtain on-campus employment authorization from the International Student Advisor before starting any employment on campus.

ACADEMIC TRAINING FOR J-1 VISA HOLDERS

An Exchange Visitor Student (J-1 visa) may be authorized for a period of up to 18 months academic training directly related to his/her program of study while enrolled or after completion of the academic program. Postdoctoral academic training is allowed for up to three years. However, the academic training cannot exceed the total time enrolled in course work. The program sponsor can only authorize such a period of academic training for students on J-1 visas. Also, it is up to each program sponsor to determine the length of the academic training period up to 18 months. Some sponsoring agencies will only allow 6 or 12 months of academic training. You must have firm employment before applying for Academic Training.

SPECIAL NOTE ON TRAVEL TO CANADA AND MEXICO

Students on an F-1 or J-1 visa may travel to Canada/Mexico with an expired visa if you have all other required documents. So long as you are traveling to Canada or Mexico for pleasure/tourism for a duration of less than 30 days, you can use an expired F-1 or J-1 visa to reenter the US. Automatic revalidation of non-immigrant visas does not apply to nationals of the following countries: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, and Cuba.



If you wish to apply for a non-immigrant visa from any of the US Consulate Posts in Canada or Mexico, you must schedule an appointment. For more information on how to apply for a visa at a US Consulate in Canada see: http://usvisa-info.com/en-CA/selfservice/ss_country_welcome. You should note that if your application for a new visa from a US Consulate in Canada or Mexico is denied, you must return to your country of residence and apply for the visa from there.



Check first to see if you need a visa to enter Canada/Mexico. Applications and instructions for a Canadian Tourist visa are available on the web at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp>. A list of countries that require a Tourist Visa to visit Mexico can be found here: <http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/paises visa/en.html>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Foreign nationals are required to advise the DHS of any change of US address within 10 days. Since the events of September 11, 2001, the DHS appears to seriously enforce this rule. If you are a student on an F-1 or J-1 visa, you can satisfy this requirement by informing the International House of your address change within 10 days. You can download a Change of Address form from the International House website.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

All international students enrolling at WPI are issued an ID numbers. This is not a Social Security Number, and may not be used outside the university. In addition, your SEVIS ID number received from immigration is not a Social Security Number and may not be used for any other purposes but immigration. If you will be seeking employment, you will need a genuine Social Security Number, and you should apply for one by taking your passport, I-20 form or DS-2019 form, I-94, and proof of Employment Authorization to the nearest Social Security Office. Only students who have proof of employment are eligible to apply for a Social Security Number. Once you have received an offer of employment, you must come to the International House to receive a Social

Security information packet. Depending on your status and your type of employment, you may need additional materials from the International Student Advisor in order to apply for a Social Security Number.

The Social Security Office recommends waiting eight to ten days after your initial arrival before applying for the Social Security Number. This is to ensure you are properly registered in SEVIS. The Social Security Administration verifies the status of all non-immigrant applicants for Social Security Numbers with USCIS. This USCIS check can add about a six-week delay in obtaining a Social Security Number. Please note that the Social Security Administration cannot check you in the SAVE system unless you have been registered in SEVIS by the International Student Advisor.

Social Security Administration

Madison Place, 51 Myrtle St Worcester, MA 01608

Phone: 1-866-331-9069

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am-4pm

Wednesday: 9am to 12pm

Closed for All Federal Holidays

<http://www.ssa.gov/>



US TAX OBLIGATIONS

As a F1 or J1 visa holder, ***you are required to submit forms each year*** to the US Government as a part of your US Tax Obligations. In the US, every person who earns money must pay income tax. This tax is usually deducted from your paycheck. At the end of the tax year (January 1 to December 31), all employers are required to create a summary statement of how much money



each employee has earned or has been given (i.e., scholarships and grants) and how much tax was withheld from each paycheck during the tax year. The most commonly used forms of summary statements are called W-2 forms and 1042's. These forms are mailed during the month of January to those who have earned income. It is the responsibility of each person to file income tax return forms with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the State of Massachusetts by April 15.

Some facts about tax obligations for non-US citizens:

- International students and exchange visitors are not automatically exempt from paying income tax.
- Most stipends, scholarships, grants, and fellowships are taxable.

- All F and J visa holders--even those who earn no money in the US--**must file a statement** at the end of the tax year.
- If you make more than \$8,000 in a tax year, you are required to file state taxes. If you make less than \$8,000, filing state taxes is optional.
- If you have been in the US for less than 5 calendar years, you are considered a non-resident alien for tax purposes. If you have been in the US for more than 5 calendar years, you are considered a resident alien for tax purposes.
 - A calendar year is considered any time present in the US during a specific calendar year. If you arrived on December 31st, 2014, you will count 2014 as your first calendar year.
- As a non-resident alien, you cannot use the same tax software advertised for American residents
- Some countries have tax treaties with the US. If you are applying for tax treaty benefits, you must complete Form 8233.

All F and J visa holders are required to file a tax return whether or not they earned any US source income. If you had NO income from the US, you only have to file Form 8843. If you HAD US income, you must file Form 1040 NR-EZ. Individuals with more complicated tax situation should use Form 1040 NR.

WHERE TO GO FOR TAX HELP AND INFORMATION

There are several government publications that are very helpful:

- Publication 519 US Tax Guide for Aliens
- Publication 901 US Tax Treaties
- Publication 513 Tax Info for Visitors to the US
- Publication 520 Scholarships and Fellowships
- Publication 515 Withholding of Tax on Non-resident Aliens.

You can contact the IRS by phone at 1-800-829-3676 or 1-800-829-1040 for forms and booklets for questions.

During tax season the International House offers software to help you file your taxes. In addition, Colleen Callahan-Panday offers tax workshops to help you understand your tax filing obligations. Be sure to read the International House newsletters during the tax season for more information about tax workshop dates and tax software.

CONVERSIONS

1 inch	25.4 millimeters
1 foot (12 inches)	3.048 decimeters
1 yard (3 feet)	0.9144 meter
1 mile (5,280 feet)	1.6093 kilometers
0.03937 inches	1 millimeter
3.2808 feet	1 meter
1.0936 yards	1 meter
1 kilogram	2.21 pounds
1 quart	1.1012 liters
1 peck	8.8098 liters
1 bushel	35.239 liters
1 fluid ounce	29.573 milliliters
1 quart	0.94635 liters
1 gallon	3.7854 liters
0.033814 fl. Oz.	1 milliliter
1.0567 quarts	1 liter
0.26417 gallon	1 liter

Fahrenheit °F Centigrade °C (Celsius)

32	0
35	1.6
40	4.4
45	7.2
50	10.0
55	12.7
60	15.5
65	18.3
75	23.8
80	26.6
85	29.4
90	32.2
100	37.3

GLOSSARY A – ACADEMIC TERMS COMMONLY USED ON CAMPUS

Source: Educational Counseling Section, United States Information Service

Academic Adviser: Member of the faculty who helps and advises the student on academic matters. He or she may also assist the student during the registration process.

Academic Probation: A status resulting from unsatisfactory academic work; a student who is on academic probation must improve academic performance (i.e., grades) or be dismissed from the university after a specified length of time.

Academic Year: The period of formal academic instruction, usually extending from August to May. WPI uses academic quarters, or terms, for undergraduate courses, and semesters for graduate courses.

Accreditation: Non-governmental approval of institutions and/or certain programs within institutions by nationally recognized accrediting bodies. Accreditation can affect the transferability of credits from one institution to another or can be linked to prerequisites for professional certification or licensure.

Advanced Placement: A waiver of some of the studies normally required for an undergraduate degree, granted to a student on the basis of prior study or experience (often as indicated by the student's performance on special examinations).

Alumna, Alumnus: A woman (alumna) or man (alumnus) who has attended or graduated from a school, college or university. (Plural forms: alumnae, alumni.)

Assistantship: A study grant to a graduate student that is offered in return for certain services in teaching or laboratory supervision (as a teaching assistant), or services in research (as a research assistant).

Class: The word “class” has several different definitions: (1) Group of students which meets with an instructor or professor on a regularly scheduled basis; (2) The group of students in a particular year of study, i.e., freshman class (1st year), sophomore class (2nd year), junior class (3rd year), senior class (4th year); (3) The group of students who will graduate in a particular year, as “The Class of 2000.”

Consortium: A union of several colleges and/or universities within close proximity of each other, offering wider course selections, more extensive library resources and other extended cultural and educational opportunities.

Cram: Intense study for a test, done at the last possible moment.

Extracurricular Activities: Activities which are a part of student life but not part of regular classroom study, such as athletics, student activities, dances, clubs, etc.

Professor Emeritus: An academic title sometimes conferred on a retired faculty member.

Quiz: Short written or oral test, less formal than an examination.

Registrar: The college administrator who maintains student academic records and is responsible for registering a student for their courses.

Research Paper: A written report, which includes research findings and the development of the student's original ideas.

Seminar: A form of small group instruction combining independent research and class discussions under the guidance of a professor. Seminars are open to undergraduate seniors and graduate students.

Transcript: A certified copy of a student's educational record containing titles of courses, the number of credits and final grades in each course. An official transcript will also state the date a degree has been conferred. Transcripts can be obtained from the Registrar.

GLOSSARY B – IMMIGRATION TERMS

For a complete listing of immigration terminologies go to the USCIS homepage.

Alien Registration Number (or “A” Number): Identification number assigned to an immigrant for US government purposes. In certain cases, at the discretion of the USCIS, registration numbers may be assigned to non-immigrant students and exchange visitors. However, most F-1, J-1 and M-1 students in the United States do not have “A” Numbers.

“Certificate of Eligibility” (Forms I-20, or DS-2019): Forms I-20 or DS-2019 are issued by a recognized US educational, vocational or non-academic institution that accepts a foreign student for full-time study. Their sponsor, or the US educational institution they will be attending, issues the DS-2019 to exchange visitors. The I-20 and DS-2019 forms are not visas; they are visa petitions that state your eligibility to apply for the non-immigrant student visa status.

Change of Status: Change from one non-immigrant classification to another. Change of status requires USCIS approval.

Dependent: One who relies on another for support. For immigration purposes, a dependent is a spouse or an unmarried minor child (under 21-years-old).

Extension of Stay: Permission from the USCIS to remain in the United States beyond the expiration date specified on the Form I-94, “Arrival/Departure Record”.

Form I-539: Application form to be filled out by non-immigrants requesting an extension of stay, reinstatement, or a change of status.

Immigrant: A person who comes to a country other than his own as a permanent resident.

Naturalization: Process of becoming a citizen of a country not one's own.

Permanent Resident: Same as immigrant; a foreign national authorized to remain in the United States for an indefinite period of time.

SEVIS Number: The number on the I-20 Form or Form DS 2019 assigned to an F-1 or J-1 student.

Visa: An endorsement, stamped into a passport by a proper authority of a country the bearer wishes to enter. The visa denotes that the passport has been examined, that certain requirements for entry have been met and that the bearer is permitted to proceed. The visa does not represent permission to enter the country; actual permission is granted at the point of entry.

Office of International Students and Scholars

28 Trowbridge Road

Tom Hartvig Thomsen, Director
hartvig@wpi.edu

Colleen Callahan-Panday, Associate Director
ccallahan@wpi.edu

Kathryn Remillard, SEVIS Coordinator
kremillard@wpi.edu

Janice T. Martin, Administrative Assistant VI
jtmartin@wpi.edu

Telephone: 508-831-6030

FAX: 508-831-6032

English as a Second Language Program

Billy D. McGowan, Director
billym@wpi.edu

Telephone: 508-831-6033

FAX: 508-831-6032

