

Supporting International Graduate Students

International students bring diverse thinking and expertise to your programs. They also face a unique set of requirements and challenges and you may need additional resources to better support these students. The International Enrollment & Engagement team within the Office of Global Affairs is here to help.

Support the Office of Global Affairs provides to students



New International Student Orientation

Before the start of each semester, new international students are required to attend this 1-day orientation. We provide a host of information that is specific to international students studying on an F-1 student visa.



Airport Shuttle

We arrange Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) shuttle service at the start of each semester. While primarily targeted towards incoming students, continuing students are welcome to register. The specific date and time(s) are arranged in advance and communicated with students with at least 4 weeks' notice to reserve their spots. The fee is estimated to be \$50 USD, but is subject to change. Local pick up from Pitt-Greenville Airport (PGV) can also be arranged at no cost.



Cultural Adjustment and Community Building Events

Each semester we host a series of events ranging from casual Coffee Hours and football tailgates to day-long excursions to popular locations such as the Outer Banks. Our semester event schedules are available in the International Student Hub, shared at new student orientation, and sent out via email in our weekly International Student Digest.



English Language Support

Students can audit ECU Language Academy classes (reading, writing, grammar, listening/speaking) at no charge while enrolled in a degree program at ECU. If you identify this need for your students, please contact the Manager of ECU Language Academy, Ed Chaffin, at chaffine22@ecu.edu.



Career Prep Series

Co-hosted with ECU Career Services, we offer five workshops for international students each academic year including:

- Bootcamp (Career Services)
- Understanding CPT & OPT
- The Job Search
- Cover Letters
- Interviewing



F-1 Student Visa Advising

East Carolina University sponsors F-1 student visas and therefore works with each student to share the requirements, ensure they are compliant, and answer any questions they have about the regulations and benefits of their student visa.



International Student Hub

After an international student is admitted and begins the student visa process they are enrolled into our International Student Hub in Canvas. They have access to this Hub for the entire duration of their studies. This is our living resource and contains information for new students including arrival, housing and bank accounts, as well as continuing student information such as understanding and maintaining their visa status, employment regulations and processes, adjusting to US culture and living in Greenville.

Benefits include:

- 24/7 access to information and answers to their most frequently asked questions
- Weekly International Student Digest with announcements
- Events calendar

Frequently Asked Questions about Regulations

What are the Enrollment Requirements for International Students?

Credit requirements

Students studying at ECU on an F-1 student visa must be enrolled full time during fall and spring semesters. Full time is 9 credit hours for graduate students. Per federal regulations, 6 of those credit hours must be conducted in the face-to-face format. This means the course must be Main Campus 008 and Instructional Method 01 in Banner. The remaining credit hours can be face-to-face or distance education. Continued enrollment in summer sessions is considered optional and therefore does not have a minimum credit hour requirement.

Enrollment verifications

Official enrollment verifications are issued by the Registrar. Students can request this via registrar.ecu.edu/enrollment-verification/

What Employment Regulations do International Students Face?

Working on campus

International students studying on an F-1 visa are allowed to work on campus. They are allowed to work part time during the semesters (maximum 20 hours) and full time during breaks (winter and summer).

Working off campus

International students studying on an F-1 visa are not allowed to work off-campus unless reviewed and approved by their International Student Advisor. Work must be related to their academic discipline and have an academic purpose.

Social Security Numbers

International students who have been offered an on-campus position can apply for a social security number (SSN) with the social security administration in Greenville. They must first have:

1. An offer of employment.
2. A permanent US address (temporary addresses such as AirBnB, hotel, etc. do not qualify).
3. Printed letters from Dr. Mallett.

Taxes

International students who earn wages during their time at ECU are expected to file taxes each year. The Office of Global Affairs provides licenses to GLACIER Tax Prep as a courtesy to our international students. GLACIER Tax Prep specializes in non-resident alien tax compliance. To utilize this service, students need to request information from Dr. Mallett each year.

How can you prepare yourself?

Global Zone Training provides an interactive and engaging opportunity for you to better understand the challenges international Pirates face and develop strategies for helping them navigate rough waters. Be a part of a network of advocates and allies who strengthen international Pirates' sense of belonging and reinforce our commitment that all Pirates will be academically supported and professionally prepared. Global Zone sessions are organized several times per year. Information about upcoming sessions can be found on the [Office of Global Affairs website](#).

Who do I contact with questions?

Colleen Roland

Student Services Specialist

The first point of contact for admissions and enrollment steps prior to arrival.

Dr. William Mallett

Assistant Director for International Student Advisement

The first point of contact for all questions related to current international students.

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