

Change in Date and Time for Meetings!

Beginning December 2, 2025, the OPA/ISSS Meetings will move to the first Tuesday of every month at 10AM

Please note both the day and time will change.

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs / International Student & Scholar Services
November 7, 2025

Gabby is out of the office

She will return on December 1st.

Contact Joan McGinley with J-1 Questions:

joan.mcginley@temple.edu

215-204-7708

Sharon is back up if you cannot reach Joan

USCIS Guidance Regarding the H-1B Proclamation

Who Is Affected:

- New H-1B petitions filed on or after 12:01 a.m. EDT, September 21, 2025, for beneficiaries outside the U.S. without a valid H-1B visa. This includes H-1B Cap-Subject Employers such as Temple University.
- Petitions requesting consular notification, port of entry notification, or pre-flight inspection for a foreign national in the U.S. This will include Canadian applicants.
- Petitions for change of status, amendment, or extension of stay, if USCIS determines the foreign national is ineligible for such changes within the U.S. and beneficiary must depart the U.S. to obtain status.

USCIS Guidance Regarding the H-1B Proclamation

Who Is Not Affected:

- Holders of currently valid H-1B visas.
- Petitions submitted before September 21, 2025.
- Petitions for amendment, change of status, or extension of stay for foreign nationals inside the U.S. who are granted such changes within the U.S.

USCIS Guidance Regarding the H-1B Proclamation

Payment Requirement:

A \$100,000 payment must be made via

<https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/1772005176> before filing the petition.

Proof of payment or evidence of an exception must be included with the petition.

Petitions without this documentation will be denied.

Exceptions:

Exceptions may be granted by the Secretary of Homeland Security only in extraordinarily rare circumstances, such as when the foreign national's presence is in the national interest, no American worker is available, and the payment would significantly undermine U.S. interests.

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/h-1b-specialty-occupations>

Consider Employee's situation when deciding not to renew someone

If someone holding H-1B status will not be renewed and cannot find another position in time for a new employer to file an H-1B before their H-1B Approval Notice end date, they run the risk of their new employer having to pay the \$100,000 fine.

For Example:

12/31/25: Last Date of Employment at Temple

12/31/25: H-1B Approval Notice End Date

12/21/25: New Employer offers the H-1B a job but there is not enough time to file an H-1B petition before 12/31/25 (Remember that an LCA takes a minimum of 7 days and many schools close for the holidays)

1/1/26: H-1B Employee is no longer maintaining H-1B status; new employer would need to file an H-1B petition with Consular Processing which means they need to pay the \$100,000 fee before a new H-1B petition will be approved

New Form to Bring in a PD / PFRA

<https://global.temple.edu/issc/hosting-departments/information-departments/form-and-letter-templates-hiring-department>

Links to ISSS Forms

Controlled Technology Form



ISSS Job Description for Post Doc and Faculty Positions



Actual Wage Form



Bringing International Researchers to Temple University (BIRTU Form)



Bringing a Postdoctoral Fellow / Postdoctoral Fellow Research Associate to Temple



The required form can be found [here](#)

OPA Appointment Letters and Forms

All Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) appointment letters and forms are available via TUportal. Log into TUportal and navigate to either “Staff Tools” or “Faculty Tools,” as applicable. Then, scroll to the bottom of the page to the *University Forms* channel located in the center column. To locate the OPA documents, enter “Postdoc” into the search field. This will bring up all relevant OPA forms, letters, and procedural documents.

Ensure to retrieve appointment letters / forms for all submissions.

PROCESSING TIMES FOR OPA

	Inside the US	Outside the US
Domestic Postdoctoral Fellow	1 month	
*J-1 Postdoctoral Fellow	1 month	2 months
*H-1B Postdoctoral Fellow Research Associate	2-3 months	3-4 months

The Processing Start Date begins once the required paperwork has been submitted to OPA and the DestinyOne application is complete apart from the OPA approved appointment letter.

Controlled Technology Reviews are currently taking about two weeks to complete so please email the completed the Controlled Technology Form to ISSS as soon as it is ready for submission.

There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the processing times.

OPA Processing Times

Normal processing time for OPA's review of paperwork is 5-7 business days from the day OPA receives the complete package electronically. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the processing times.

	Outside the US	Inside the US
Visiting Research Scholar	2 months	1 month
Visiting Research Scholar in Residence	2 months	1 month
The two-month period begins once you have a complete application in D1 and are ready to submit to ISSS & OPA		
Visiting Graduate Student Scholar	-----	1 month
The appointment package must be complete before submitting to OPA.		
J1 Graduate Student Intern	2 months	-----

OFLC has Resumed Application Processing



FLAG.DOL.GOV

ISSS can file LCAs for H-1B and E-3 Petitions Now again

<https://flag.dol.gov/announcement/2025-10-31>

Hiring / Appointing Foreign Nationals

If a Temple Department wishes to appoint/hire a foreign national, the Department will need to decide whether to sponsor the applicant for either J-1 Exchange Visitor status or H-1B Specialty Occupation Worker. There may be alternative options if the applicant is a national of Mexico, Canada or Australia.

If you wish to sponsor the applicant for J-1 Exchange Visitor status and they hold another non-immigrant status, your department will need to submit a complete J-1 Exchange Visitor application. Note that the applicant will need to apply for a change of status through USCIS. Either the applicant or the Department may pay the Premium Processing fee (currently \$1,965). The applicant could not begin working until the applicant receives an I-539 Approval Notice indicating a change of status to J-1.

F-1 Social Security Letters

- Students bring these documents to SSN office, including a letter signed by them, their supervisor, and ISSS
- Signatures must be physical, NOT digital
- Students can retrieve the letter here ->

Social Security Number (SSN) Information

International Students and Social Security Numbers



Who is Eligible for a SSN?



How to Apply for SSN



Bring These Documents with You:



You will then proceed to the office of Social Security on the day of your appointment with the SSA with the following items:

- Social Security Application
 - The form can be filled out by paper at <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>
 - Or you have the option to start the application online, then go to a local Social Security office to provide your documentation. Once your application is approved, you'll receive a Social Security card with your number on it by mail within 14 days. [Start the application here](#)
- Your valid passport with US visa stamp
- I-20 – if you hold F1 status
- DS-2019 if you hold J1 status
- I-94 Admission/Departure Record – see <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home> if you don't have an I-94 card in your passport.
- [Social Security Number Support Letter](#) (hand signed by your employer and the ISSS Office. See above) **(The Social Security Administration does not accept digital signatures)**

global.temple.edu/iss/iss/hosting-departments/information-departments/form-and-letter-templates-hiring-department

Applying for Post-Completion OPT

1. Temple students who graduate at the end of the Fall 2025 semester have 60 days post-graduation to apply for post-completion OPT (though it is best practice to do so earlier)
2. Apply for a recommendation on the ISSS website
3. Review the detailed instructions ISSS provides with the OPT I-20
4. Apply online with the USCIS website
5. Obtain virtual receipt notice day of online filing
6. Obtain approval and EAD card 2-4 weeks later for Premium Processing, 2-3 months later for regular processing
7. Last day to work on-campus is last day of the semester

They can only resume work once OPT has been approved and selected employment start date has passed

Reminders about J-1 Scholar Completion of Program

- Contact ISSS as soon as you hear about a J-1 scholar who is ending their program early
- ISSS must be notified of the J-1 Exchange Visitor's last official day at Temple
- ISSS will need to know if they are returning home or transferring to a new program
- It is critical that SEVIS has accurate information so that the Exchange Visitor is not denied future immigration benefits.

Administrative Processing

- **“Administrative processing” is generally associated with the Dept of State making a determination that a clearance is required before a visa can be issued, and the behind-the-scenes processing that DOS/outside agencies conduct to request and obtain that clearance.**
- **Can take up to 9 months**
- **If this happens to anyone your have invited/hired/appointed, please let ISSS know ASAP so we can develop a backup plan**