



Immigration and U.S. Law

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United States Law and You

Immigration Law

All international students come to Long Beach City College with their own national passport, an I-20 and F-1 non-immigrant status indicated on the I-94 card.

The Foreign Student Advisor (FSA) and staff of the ISO work for you and for the College, not for the Department of Homeland Security nor the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/US-CIS). However, we must comply with DHS/US-CIS law. We will help you to understand the law and explain what you need to do to be in compliance with the law. We will not be able to prepare documents for you that do not follow DHS/US-CIS guidelines. If you suspect that you may be “out of status”, please come to the ISO to discuss your situation so that we can help you re-establish your legal F-1 student status.

Your passport: You must have a valid passport at all times. If your passport is going to expire soon, it is your responsibility to contact your local embassy or consulate to arrange for a new passport. (See the list of embassies provided in this notebook.) You must carry your passport whenever you travel outside of the U.S., even if you are just going to Canada or Mexico for the day. Be sure to mark your calendar to remind yourself to renew your passport.

Visa: Visas are used only at the airport or other port of entry into the U.S. when people seek to enter the country. It is not necessary to have a valid visa once you are in the country. The only time you need a visa is when you are seeking to enter the U.S. You may remain in the U.S. with an expired visa. However, if you are already in the U.S. and would like to travel outside the country, you then will need a valid visa to return to the U.S. (unless you are traveling to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean Islands). Currently, U.S. Consulates in many countries allow or encourage visa application by mail. Check embassy web pages at: travel.state.gov/links.html

If you are traveling outside the U.S. and will need a new visa to return, it is best to get a U.S. visa from the U.S. consulate in your home country. If this is not possible, you may also apply for a visa in another country. The closest U.S. consulates are in Canada and Mexico. *However, if you apply for a visa in a third country (not your home country), and are denied, you will not be permitted to return to the US. You would be required to go home.*

Your I-20: Your I-20 is an agreement between Long Beach City College, DHS and you that you will study at Long Beach City College full-time. (Full-time is 12 units per Fall and Spring semester, or more.) Your I-20 must be valid in order for you to maintain your F-1 student status. The I-20 indicates the period of time during which you have permission to study. It is your responsibility to contact the ISO at least two months in advance if your I-20 will expire and you wish to request an extension. Your I-20 also indicates your major. You must request a new I-20 from the ISO whenever you change your major. If you plan to transfer to a new school, you will need a new I-20 from your new school. Your I-20 must always show the name of the school you are attending.

Your I-94 Card: This is the most important document you have. The I-94 gives you permission to study in the U.S. It indicates your non-immigrant status (F-1) and the period of time during which you may remain in the U.S.: D/S. D/S stands for “Duration of Status”. This means that your status in the United States is legal as long as you have a valid I-20 from the school that you are attending, and you are completing a minimum of 12 units every fall and spring Semester.

Remaining “In Status”: To remain in status, you must COMPLETE a minimum of 12 units every fall and spring semester. Students are not required to attend classes during the summer semester. Vacations or “leave of absence” in the United States is generally not permitted during the fall and spring semesters. If you become ill or have a personal emergency, or for any other reason feel that you will not be able to complete 12 units in a particular semester, you should see the FSA right away. She can often work with DHS to ensure that your F-1 status is maintained even though you are not completing 12 units in that semester. It is *impossible* to make such an arrangement after the course ends, so it is important that you contact the FSA once you realize that you may have a problem.

Out of Status: Students who fail to complete 12 units each semester, whose I-20s expire, or who do not comply with other DHS guidelines become “out of status”. These students are subject to deportation unless their status is “reinstated”. Students must visit the DHS/US-CIS office in Los Angeles to become reinstated. The process to become reinstated is time-consuming and costly, and reinstatement is not guaranteed. Students should avoid falling out of status, if possible. If you do need to request reinstatement, the FSA can help you to prepare the documents you will need.

Travel Outside the United States: If you travel outside the U.S., even for short trips to Canada or Mexico, you must carry your I-20 and I-94 with your current passport. You must also obtain the signature of the FSA or Designated School Official (DSO) on the back of your I-20 before you travel. Since the FSA/DSO is not always available, be sure to request her signature well in advance of your trip.

Transfer: F-1 students may transfer from one school to another at the same level of educational program. The transfer process will be handled between the schools and DHS/US-CIS approval is not necessary.

Permission to Work: Students with F-1 non-immigrant status may work on-campus on a part-time basis (20 hrs./week maximum) as long as you are enrolled in 12 units. There is no waiting period and permission from DHS/US-CIS is not required.

Curricular Practical Training may be authorized after one year of study at Long Beach City College if that training is an integral part of the student’s program. The course description must be clearly outlined in the college catalogue as requiring practical training to fulfill the requirements.

Optional Practical Training may be authorized after the student has completed an AA/AS degree or transfer program at Long Beach City College.

For details on any form of work authorization, please attend an OPT workshop.

B-1/B-2 Status: If your non-immigrant status is B-1, B-2 or something other than F-1 and you intend to complete a program of study at Long Beach City College, you must

change your status to F-1, non-immigrant student. The FSA can provide you with the proper documents. B-1/B-2 STUDENTS MAY NOT STUDY UNTIL THEY RECEIVE THEIR F1 STATUS.

Leases and Contracts

All leases and contracts are legally binding documents. If you sign a contract, you become bound by its provisions and you may be released from that contract only to the extent permitted by its contents. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you not only read, but that you thoroughly understand the various conditions of a contract before signing it. NEVER SIGN A DOCUMENT WITH BLANKS STILL UNFILLED. GET A COPY OF EVERY DOCUMENT THAT YOU SIGN.

It is common for you to be required to sign a lease or contract when you rent an apartment, or apply for gas, electricity, or telephone services. Remember to take a copy of the contract and keep it with you for reference. If you sign a six-month lease for an apartment, you are expected to live there and pay for all six months. If you break the lease and move to some other location, you will have to pay the moving expenses and the cost of reconnecting utilities, and you may have to pay for the unused portion of the lease as well.

“Bad Check” Law

Writing a check without adequate funds in your account is not only dishonest, it is also illegal. Most of the time, it results in a fine, but the law does permit a jail term as well. Therefore, it is important to keep your checkbook properly balanced.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting (i.e., taking something from a shop without paying for it) is a crime. A first-time offender usually has to pay a cash fine and receives a suspended jail term.

Public Nuisance

No person is allowed to disturb the peace and violate the personal privacy of others. It is against the law to be involved in public fighting, public drunkenness, or playing of unnecessarily loud music. The penalty for public nuisance depends on the severity of the effects on others. It could be just a cash fine or a fine and jail term.

Automobiles and Driving

A good auto driver recognizes that there are two basic components to safe and good driving: an alert driver (**Never drive when intoxicated! It could be fatal!**) and a sound automobile.

It is also important to remember that there are other people driving vehicles on the road and everyone may not be alert or driving a sound automobile. A slight deficiency or negligence on the part of anyone can lead to disaster. To remain within the legal limits, make sure that:

- you have a valid California driver's license;
- your automobile is in good driving condition;
- your automobile has valid license plates;
- you follow the instructions on the road;
- you have proper and valid insurance;
- you have the car registration with you;
- your registration sticker is valid.

Violation of any driving laws could mean cash fines, public service, suspension of your driver's license, jail term, or a combination of any of these.

Traffic Violations: Even the most cautious drivers can do things which may be a violation of existing laws. Some of the most common violations include:

Speeding: cash fines are imposed for the first two violations. A third speeding violation usually leads to suspension of the driver's license.

Breaking the rules of instructional road signs: (i.e., driving through a red light, failing to yield where instructed, failing to stop at a stop sign, etc.) Cash fines are usually imposed for such violations.

Inappropriate Parking: (i.e., parking in a fire lane, parking in spaces marked "Handicapped" and other reserved spots.) Cash fines are usually imposed for such violations.

Expired license, license plate or insurance: Cash fines are usually imposed for such violations.

Operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs: Violators lose their driver's license with a possible jail term and substantial cash fines.

Any of the above violations is subject to being ticketed by the police. If you do get a ticket:

1. Find out the reason for the ticket.
2. Pay the appropriate fine if indicated by the police BEFORE the due date.
3. Appear in the designated court if so advised by police.
4. Do not argue with the police.
5. Do not try to bribe the police.

If you get a ticket for any violation, make sure that you pay the fine BEFORE the court appearance date. If you wish to defend yourself in court, remember to appear in court on time. Otherwise, you will be penalized by the court for failing to appear. This usually means an additional cash fine.

Parking Violations at Long Beach City College

All Long Beach City College students who operate a vehicle are supposed to purchase a semester parking permit at the time of registration. Students are expected to abide by parking regulations. Those who violate these regulations are ticketed. Such violations include: parking in staff/faculty parking spaces, parking in handicapped spaces, parking in areas posted as "no parking" or parking along curbs that are painted

red. Tickets may be issued if you do not follow parking or driving regulations on campus.

Car Insurance

1. Liability insurance is required by law in California. All drivers must have liability insurance.
2. Full coverage insurance is recommended. This includes comprehensive, collision, uninsured motorists, towing, and other coverage.
3. The cost of auto insurance varies considerably. You are encouraged to call several companies (in the yellow pages of your phone book under “Insurance”) to compare prices.

Legal Tips

1. If you are arrested:
 - Do not resist arrest by a police officer, even if you feel you are innocent.
 - You have the right to remain silent.
 - You have the right to contact an attorney before answering any questions.
 - You do not need to consent to a search of your home, car or person unless the officer has a warrant.
 - Be calm, polite and cooperative, but firmly assert your rights.
2. If you have an accident:
 - If possible, do not move the vehicles.
 - Report the accident to the police immediately.
 - Get the name, address, phone number and insurance company of the other driver.
 - Do not admit fault or liability.
 - Contact your insurance company (driving without insurance is illegal.)
 - File your claim promptly with your insurance company.
3. Before you sign an apartment or rental house lease:
 - Get all promises in writing.
 - Inspect the apartment. Get a checklist and note all damages present in the dwelling.
 - Check with other tenants about the landlord’s reputation.
 - Check out policies concerning pets, parking, guests, gardening, etc.
 - Get a copy of any rules concerning tenants.

Adapted from materials compiled by Mary Meares, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, 1994.

F-1 STATUS STUDENT RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Rule #1: Register as a **full-time** student unless you have permission from the International Counselor to register on a part-time basis.
- Rule #2: Register **no later than 30 days** after the program start date (new students); and each semester thereafter, no later than 30 days after the each next session start date (continuing students).
- Rule #3: Enroll in **no more** than one (1) *Distance Education Course* each semester.
- Rule #4: Keep all of your travel documents up-to-date and valid.
- Rule #5: Apply for a program extension at least **30 days before your I-20 expires**. It is **not** possible to extend your stay after your I-20 expires. (If it is after 30 days, you will fall *Out of Status* and “*Reinstatement*” will be required.)
- Rule #6: Have your I-20 signed at least **one week** before you leave the U.S.
- Rule #7: **Do not** work without the proper authorization under the regulations at 8C.R.&214.2(f)(9) or &214.2(f)(10).
- Rule #8: Per Homeland Security Regulations: Report a *change of address* or *personal information* to the International Office **within 10 days** of the change.
- Rule #9: File federal income taxes every year you are in the U.S.
- Rule #10: Notify our office **before** you leave Long Beach City College for any reason.
- Rule #11: Report *stolen* or *lost documents* **immediately** to our office.
- Rule #12: Contact our office first with any questions or concerns.
- Rule #13: When you graduate, you **must** depart the U.S. **or enter** a higher institution **within 60 days**.
(*Failure to depart within 60 days is considered a violation of status, making the student removable/deportable by Homeland Security.*)
- Rule #14: Health insurance is **required** at all times, and **must** be purchased from Long Beach City College.
- Rule #15: Comply with the LBCC Standards of Conduct.

I have read, and I understand my responsibilities as a nonimmigrant F-1 student. I understand that if I fail to maintain my status or to comply with these regulations, I will lose my F-1 privileges, and could be deported from the U.S. I further authorize Long Beach City College to release to any federal or state agency of the United States, any information requested bearing on my status as a nonimmigrant student and my places of residence in the United States.

Student Signature

Today's Date

PRINT your name on this line

Updated 08/03/2009

CONSUL GENERALS AND TOURIST OFFICES

1. Argentina Consulate General: 5055 Wilshire Blvd., #210, L.A. 90036, 213/954-9155
2. Australian Consulate General: 2049 Century Park East, L.A. 90067, 310/229-4800
3. Austrian Consulate General: 11859 Wilshire Blvd., #501, L.A. 90025, 213/444-9310
4. Bahamas Tourist Office: 3450 Wilshire Blvd., #208, L.A. 90010, 213/385-0033
5. Bangladesh Honorary Consulate: 1564 N. Doheny Dr., L.A. 90069, 310/274-7955
6. Barbados Consulate: 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #1215, L.A. 90010, 213/380-2198
7. Belgium Consulate General: 6100 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90048, 213/857-1244
8. Belize Consulate General: 611 S. Wilton Pl., L.A. 90005, 213/385-6499
9. Bolivian Consulate General: 483 S. Spring St., #1212, L.A. 90013, 213/680-0190
10. Bosnia-Herzegovina Consulate General: 866 UN Plaza, #580, N.Y., NY 10017, 212/751-9018
11. Botswana Consulate General: 333 S. Hope St., 38th Floor, L.A., 213/626-8484
12. Brazilian Consulate General: 3810 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90010, 213/651-2664
13. Burkina Faso Honorary CG: 11755 Wilshire Blvd., #1310, L.A. 90025, 213/575-5567
14. Cameroon Honorary Consulate: 147 Terra Vista, San Francisco 94115, 415/921-5372
15. Canadian Consulate General: 550 S. Hope St., L.A., 90071, 213/346-2700
16. Caribbean Tourism: 20 E. 46th St., 4th Fl., NY, NY 10017, 212/682-0435
17. Chile Consulate: 1900 Ave. of the Stars, #2450, Century City 90013, 310/785-0047
18. Chinese (PRC) Consulate: 443 Shatto Pl., L.A. 90020, 213/807-8088
19. Colombia Consulate General: 3580 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90010, 213/653-4299
20. Costa Rica Consulate General: 3540 Wilshire Blvd., #404, L.A. 90010, 213/380-7915
21. Cuban Interest Section: c/o Switzerland, 2630/2639 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009
22. Cyprus Honorary Consulate General: 5210 Coolidge Ave., L.A. 90066, 310/397-0771
23. Denmark Consulate General: 10877 Wilshire Blvd., #1105, L.A. 90024, 310/443-2090
24. Ecuador Consulate General: 548 S. Spring St., L.A. 90013, 213/658-6020
25. Egypt Consulate General: 3001 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, 94115, 415/346-7352
26. El Salvador Consulate General: 2412 W. 7th St., 2nd Fl., L.A., 213/383-5776
27. Fiji Visitors Bureau: 577 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 220, L.A. 90045, 310/568-1616
28. Finland Consulate General: 1900 Ave. of the Stars, L.A. 90067, 310/203-9903
29. France Consulate General: 19990 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90024, 310/235-3200
30. Germany Consulate General: 6222 Wilshire Blvd., LA 90048, 213/930-2703
31. Ghana: 3512 International Dr., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, 202/676-4520
32. Great Britain Consulate: 11766 Wilshire Blvd., #400, L.A. 90025, 213/477-3322
33. Greek National Tourist: 611 W. 6th St., Ste. 2198, L.A. 90017, 213/626-6696
34. Guam Visitors: 1150 Marina Village Parkway, #104, Alameda 94501, 800/US3-GUAM
35. Haiti Honorary Consulate: 100 Brannan St., San Francisco 94107, 415/957-1189
36. Honduras Consulate General: 1543 W. Olympic Blvd., Mezzanine Floor, L.A. 90015, 213/623-2301
37. Hong Kong Tourist Assoc.: 10940 Wilshire Blvd., #1220, L.A. 90024, 310/208-4582
38. Hungary Consulate General: 11766 Wilshire Blvd., #410, L.A. 90025, 310/473-9344
39. Iceland Consulate General: 1551 Westwood Blvd., #108, L.A. 90024, 310/474-8485
40. India Consulate: 540 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco 94118, 415/668-0919
41. Indonesian Tourist: 3457 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90010, 213/387-2078
42. Iran Consulate (Algerian): 2209 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20007
43. Iraqi Interest Section: 1801 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, 202/483-7500
44. Israel Consulate: 6380 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90048, 213/852-5500
45. Italian Consulate: 12400 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. #300, L.A. 90052, 310/820-0622
46. Ivory Coast: Pier 23, San Francisco, 94111, 415/391-0176
47. Jamaican Consulate General: 8703 Venice Blvd., L.A. 90034, 310/559-3822
48. Japan Consulate General: 250 E. First St., Ste. #1507, L.A. 90012, 213/617-6700

49. Jordan Info. Bureau: 2319 Wyoming Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, 202/265-1606
50. Kenyan Tourist Office: 9100 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90212, 310/274-6635
51. Korean, ROK Consulate General: 3243 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90010, 213/385-9300
52. Kuwait Cultural: 3500 International Dr., Washington, D.C. 20008, 202/364-2100
53. Lebanon Consulate: 7060 Hollywood Blvd. Ste. #510, L.A. 90028, 323/467-1253
54. Liberian Honorary CG: 2049 E. Century Park, #890, L.A. 90067
55. Luxembourg Consulate: 516 S. Avondale Ave., L.A. 90049, 310/456-8547
56. Madagascar Honorary Consulate: 867 Garland Dr., Palo Alto, 94303, 415/323-7113
57. Malaysian Consulate General: 350 S. Figueroa St., #400, L.A. 90071, 213/892-1238
58. Mali Honorary Consulate: 1894 Westbridge Rd., L.A. 90049, 213/476-9369
59. Malta Honorary Consulate: 419 S. Norton Ave., L.A. 90022, 213/939-5011
60. Mauritius Honorary Consulate: 16633 Ventura Blvd., 6th Fl., L.A. 91436, 818/788-3720
61. Mexican Consulate: 2401 W. 6th St., L.A. 90057, 213/351-6800
62. Monaco Honorary CG: 7449 Melrose Ave., L.A. 90046, 213/570-0318
63. Morocco Consulate: 521 N. Daroca, L.A. 91775, 818/952-8800
64. Myanmar (Burma) Embassy: 2300 S. S St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20008, 202/332-9044
65. Namibian Embassy: 1705 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20009, 202/986-0540
66. Nepal Consulate: 11661 San Vicente Blvd., #510, L.A. 213/820-4099
67. Netherlands Tourism: 3460 Wilshire Blvd, #509, L.A. 90010, 310/268-1598
68. New Zealand Consulate: 10960 Wilshire Blvd #1530, L.A. 90024, 310/207-1605
69. Nicaraguan Consulate: 2500 Wilshire Blvd., #915, L.A. 213/252-1170
70. Nigerian Consulate: P.O. Box 3512, Rincon Annex, S.F. 94119, 415/864-8001
71. Norway Consulate General: 5750 Wilshire Blvd., #470, L.A. 90036, 310/277-1293
72. Oman Consulate: 10940 Wilshire Blvd., #1600, L.A. 90024, 310/443-4175
73. Pakistan Consulate: 10850 Wilshire Blvd., #1100, L.A. 90010, 310/441-5114
74. Panama Consulate: 435 Roxbury Dr., #207, Beverly Hills 90201, 213/627-9139
75. Paraguay Consulate: 2121 Ave. of the Starts #1560, L.A. 90067, 310/209-8920
76. Peruvian Consulate General: 6420 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90048, 213/651-0296
77. Philippine Consulate General: 3660 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 90010, 213/487-4525
78. Poland Bureau: 342 Madison Ave., 1512, New York, N.Y., 10173, 212/867-5011
79. Portuguese Tourist Office: 590 Fifth Ave., 4th Fl., New York, NY 10036, 212/354-4403
80. Puerto Rico Tourism Co.: 3575 West Cahuenga Blvd. #560, L.A. 90068, 800/874-1230
81. Russian Tourist U.S.A. INC.: 610 Fifth Ave. #603, New York, NY 10020, 212/757-3884
82. Saudi Arabian Consulate: 10900 Wilshire Blvd., #830, L.A. 90010, 310/479-600
83. Singapore Office: 199 S. Los Robles Ave., #280, Pasadena 91101, 626/793-0920
84. South African Tourist: 9841 Airport Blvd., #1524, L.A. 90045, 310/641-8444
85. Spain Consulate: 5055 Wilshire Blvd., #1960, L.A. 90048, 213/938-0158
86. Sri Lanka Embassy: 2148 Wyoming Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, 202/483-4025
87. Swedish Travel: 10990 Wilshire Blvd., #1100, L.A. 90024, 310/575-3383
88. Switzerland Consulate: 11766 Wilshire Blvd., #1400, L.A. 90025, 310/575-1145
89. Taiwan/Taipei Economic & Cultural: 900 N. Western Ave., L.A. 90029, 213/389-1215
90. Tanzania Mission to the UN: 205 East 42nd St., #1300, N.Y., NY 10035, 212/232-5000
91. Thailand Consulate General: 611 N. Larchmont Blvd., L.A. 90004, 213/962-9574
92. Trinidad & Tobago Tourism: 25 West 43rd St., #1508, N.Y., NY 10036, 202/862-1850
93. Tunisia: 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 202/862-1850
94. Turkish Consulate: 4801 Wilshire Blvd., #310, L.A. 90010, 213/937-0118
95. Ukraine Kobasniuk Travel: 157 Second Ave., N.Y., NY 10003, 212/254-8779
96. United Kingdom Consulate: 11766 Wilshire Blvd., #400, L.A., 310/477-3322
97. Uruguay Consulate: 429 Santa Monica Blvd., #400, Santa Monica, 310/394-5777
98. Venezuela Embassy: 870 Market St., #220, San Francisco, 415/421-5172/73
99. Viet Nam Embassy: 1233 20th St., N.W., #501, Washington, D.C. 20036, 202/861-0737
100. Zambia National Tourist: 237 East 52nd St., New York, NY 10022, 212/308-2155

