

International Student Issues



LUNCH AND LEARN
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

GEO Overview

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Global Education
Initiatives



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GEO Units/Functions



International Admissions and Recruitment

Recruits/Admits: Students studying in the U.S. with a visa

International Student and Scholar Services

Immigration advisement/reporting, adjustment and arrival support, Social activities/programs, and workshops/informational programs

Education Abroad and National Student Exchange

Lobos studying away, exchange partnerships and US passport center

Center for English Language and American Culture

College-preparatory intensive English courses

Global Programs

Short-term programs for international groups, international agreements and outreach

Global Education Office (GEO)

Different Web Addresses!!!

GEO: global.unm.edu

IAR: international.unm.edu

ISSS: issss.unm.edu

Appointments:

<https://global.unm.edu/contact-us/schedule-an-appointment.html>

Global Programs and International Enrollment



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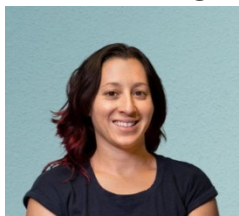
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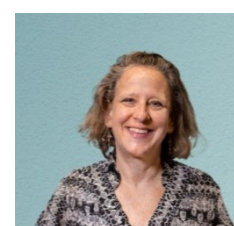
Phillip Gill



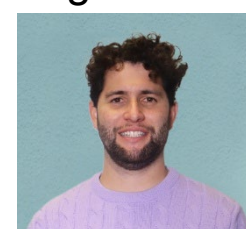
Pav Kalm



Linda Melville



Miguel Sabol



Advising Options:

Email: iadvisor@unm.edu

Drop-in Hours: Monday – Friday 1:00 – 3:00
(In-person or Zoom)

Appointments: Self-schedule on [Calendly](#)

Request Forms: Travel signatures, letters and new immigration documents

All at iss.unm.edu under Contact US

AGENDA



- Current enrollment trends
- Review of administrative actions and impacts for students in the past year
- New immigration rule explanation and Q & A
- Review of enrollment rules for international students
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT) update
- Programs that support students
- International Admissions updates and review of procedures

Statistics for Fall 2026

New UNM International Students:

447 Admitted/298 Enrolled (-22%/-7.2%)

- 145 Grads (+2.8%)
- 109 Undergrads (-13%)
- 40 Exchange (-18%)
- 4 Intensive English (-20%)

75 Majors/programs

61 Countries

Current Administration and Impact on Students

- Climate of uncertainty and government actions are a concern for all of us, but especially for non-citizens
- Advising students about what will happen is difficult
- We have provided as much information as possible directly via email
- Changes have resulted in more students asking for extensions/enrolling in new programs.

This Year

1. Travel bans for 39 countries
2. Increase in scams targeting students
3. Visa procedure changes
4. Reduction in funding sources
5. Changes to F and J student regulations

More is coming - Students must follow ALL rules to remain in status!

Visa/Travel Issues

Required in-person visa interviews for all visa applications (new or renewing)

Everyone MUST apply for a visa in their home country/country of residence

Students who travel with an expired visa may be delayed due to embassy backlogs

Students risk not having visas renewed

Social media reviewed by the Consulate and at entry; all accounts need to be public

State department staff is reduced and embassies consolidated creating long visa wait-times

Funding Issues

Grant funding cuts mean fewer assistantships for graduate students.

Foreign currency devaluation means money from home does not go as far.

Inflation and rent increases have a very large impact on students.

Immigration Rule Changes for F1 Students

- **Rule Title:** *Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students and Exchange Visitors*
- Final Rule Published on 07/17/2026
- Changes amount of time for admission to the U.S.
- Restricts academic program and school changes
- Takes effect on 09/15/2026 unless blocked by litigation

What is the current system?

- **Handouts:**
 - Overview of student rules for staff
 - Copy of International Student Responsibilities given to each student
- **Student has 4 documents that relate to immigration status:**
 - Passport: shows citizenship (issued by the home country)
 - Visa: shows permission to enter in a specific status (issued by the US consulate)
 - I-20/DS-2019: shows expected length of the program (issued by the school from SEVIS)
 - I-94: shows the immigration status for this visit (issued on arrival by CBP)
- **I-94 currently has Duration of Status or D/S**
 - Does NOT expire and is good while student is in the program, follows enrollment rules, does not work without authorization and maintains lawful status

What is the reason for this rule change?

The stated purpose is to create better “oversight” of international students and scholars in the U.S.

F and J visa status is temporary; the current government feels that individuals are abusing the system to remain in the U.S. too long

Under the D/S system, people who stay beyond their program dates are out of status, but not subject to visa overstay and unlawful presence provisions of U.S. immigration law

What is the reason for this rule change?

Currently, individuals with D/S can be removed but can return without consequence with a valid visa.

With a fixed date, those who overstay the end date given at admission will be subject to 3 and 10-year bars from re-entry that apply to other types of non-immigrant visa categories.

What does the new rule do?

Creates a fixed end date called the “Admit Until Date” (AUD) on the I-94

The AUD should be the end of form I-20/DS-2019 given by the school (plus 30-day grace period) or 4 years - whichever is sooner

An exit and reentry **OR** an extension application to USCIS will be required to continue or start a new program

Officers CAN assign an earlier date at admission to the U.S., such as the date of passport expiration.

What must students remember?

The rule creates and a new end date they must track! – the AUD

HOWEVER: Permission to remain in the U.S. STILL ends on the soonest of :

- The date the current program ends plus grace period
- The end date on the I-20/DS-2019

AND NOW ALSO

- The AUD/I-94 end date

What ELSE does the new rule do?

For students, the rule ALSO contains restrictions in major, program and school changes for all and by student level

The way the rule is written, many of the program change restrictions are unclear

The rule has transition provisions for those who enter the U.S. before the effective date (currently 9/15/2026)

Transition provisions for those in the U.S.



F and J status holders who enter the U.S. before September 15, 2026, AND DO NOT LEAVE are subject to transition provisions (not a full “grandfathering” clause)



If the person remains in the U.S. in the same program, with a valid I-20/DS-2019 their permission to remain in the U.S. will end on November 14, 2030



This means they must leave or have an extension application filed on form I-539 with USCIS **BEFORE** November 14, 2030, to remain legally.

Transition provisions for those in the U.S.



Fs and Js who travel out of the U.S. and return after September 15, 2026, will receive a fixed end date (AUD) on the I-94 and will NO LONGER QUALIFY for transition provisions.



ALSO - F1 students will change to a 30-day grace period instead of a 60-day grace period (like Js have now)



To extend or enter a new program or school an extension to USCIS or exit and re-entry is required. Program can continue while the extension application is in process but:

Work will be limited to specific conditions

Have to leave if the application is denied

Transition provisions that DIFFER for Fs and Js

IF THEY DO NOT LEAVE!!!

F1 students can apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) before March 18, 2027, without having to ALSO file an I-539 extension of status application. After that date they will have to file an I-539 extension along with the I-765 application for OPT.

J1s who apply for an extension on form I-539 with USCIS before March 18, 2027, can continue working until the end date of the new DS-2019.

Dependents

- Dependents in F2/J2 status are subject to the same rules
- In addition:
 - The F2/J2 would always have to act (apply for an extension or travel and reenter) before the F1/J1 end date no matter what their own end date is while they are in F2/J2 status

Extension Procedures and Consequences

All MUST file an extension application OR travel and re-enter BEFORE their permission to stay expires

Also, when making changes to the current program if more time is needed on the AUD (not sure what happens if more time is NOT needed.)

The I-539 extension of stay application should be submitted to USCIS as SOON AS POSSIBLE. Preferred is 6 months if allowed that soon.

The application MUST be received by USCIS before their permission to stay expires or they MUST leave the U.S.

Extension Procedures and Consequences

- Those who file a “timely” extension application can continue to study in the same or the new program until the extension application is processed.
- If denied, the student must leave the U.S. immediately.
- Continued work while the extension application is in process will depend on F or J status and the date filed. If the application is denied, all study and work must stop.

Program Change and Transfer Restrictions

- New restrictions in these rules apply mostly to F1 students; J1s are already restricted by current rules.
- New restrictions for F1 students depend on the current level of study and any level of study they complete in the U.S. after the rule takes effect on September 15, 2026.

Work while Extensions/Changes are in Process: F status

F1 students who apply before their current program ends and before their grace period starts will be able to continue to work in “on campus employment” or Curricular Practical Training (CPT) for 240 days while the application is in process

F1 students who apply during their grace period will be able to study but will not be able to work until the extension application is approved

Work while Extensions/Changes are in Process: J status

J1s who file before March 18, 2027, will be able to continue work until the end of the new DS-2019 (filed with the extension)

J1s who file after March 18, 2027, will be able to continue work for 240 days while the extension is in process

J2 dependents with work authorization must STOP all work while the extension is in process

F1 Program Change Restrictions: **ALL LEVELS**

- F1 students who complete a program at one academic level will be prohibited from completing a program at the same or a lower level of study
- If you completed a degree in the U.S. in F1 status (including OPT for that level?) BEFORE the rule effective date, you are not subject to this restriction but keep in mind that an extension application to engage in a program at that same level could possibly be denied

F1 Program
Change
Restrictions:
BELOW the
Graduate Level

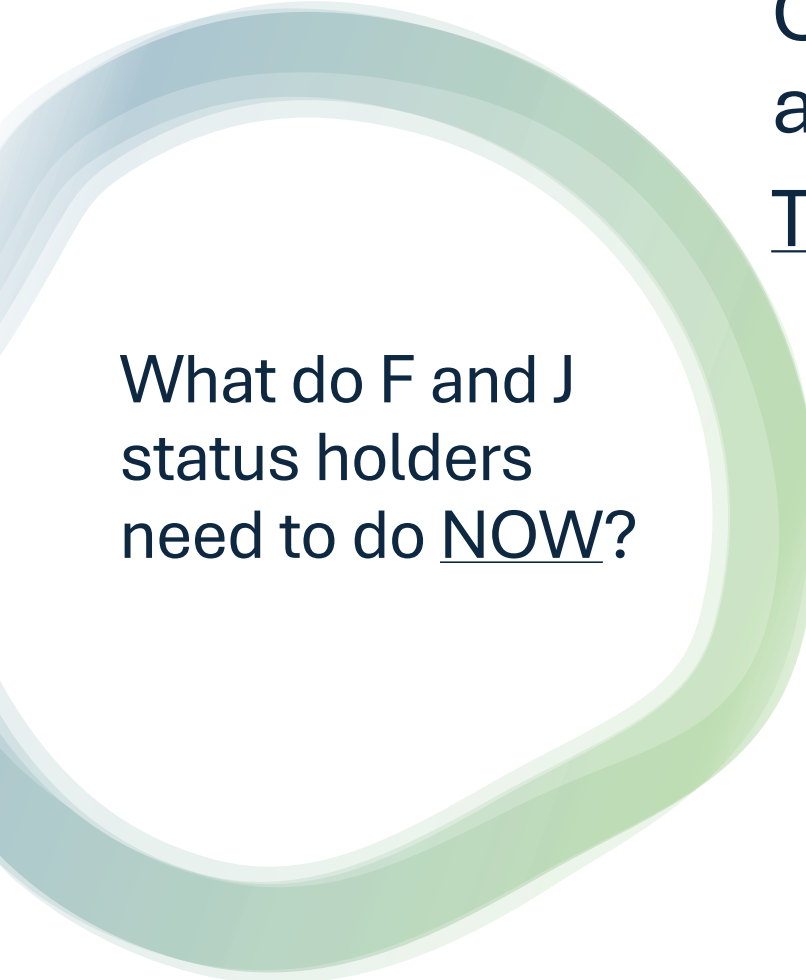
- F1 students in ESL, Associates, Bachelor's, and other programs **BELOW** the graduate level **CANNOT** change major, school or level for the first academic year in the U.S.
- After one academic year, change is permitted
- Unclear? Need to apply for an extension of status if current I-20 still has enough to complete the new program
- Unclear? Need to immediately apply for an extension if you know you will need more time to complete the new program.

**F1 Program
Change
Restrictions:
AT the Graduate
Level**

- F1 students at the graduate level CANNOT change major, school or level at all until they complete the current program of study
- After completing the current program of study, you would need to file an extension application with a new I-20 to complete a higher program at the same or a different school (or reenter)
- Dual degree programs SHOULD be listed on the I-20 before the program starts!

Uncertainties

- These regulations are complex and many specifics remain unknown
- A legal challenge has been filed, and congress could intervene to change this rule
- Continue to follow information that GEO sends about any changes or clarifications

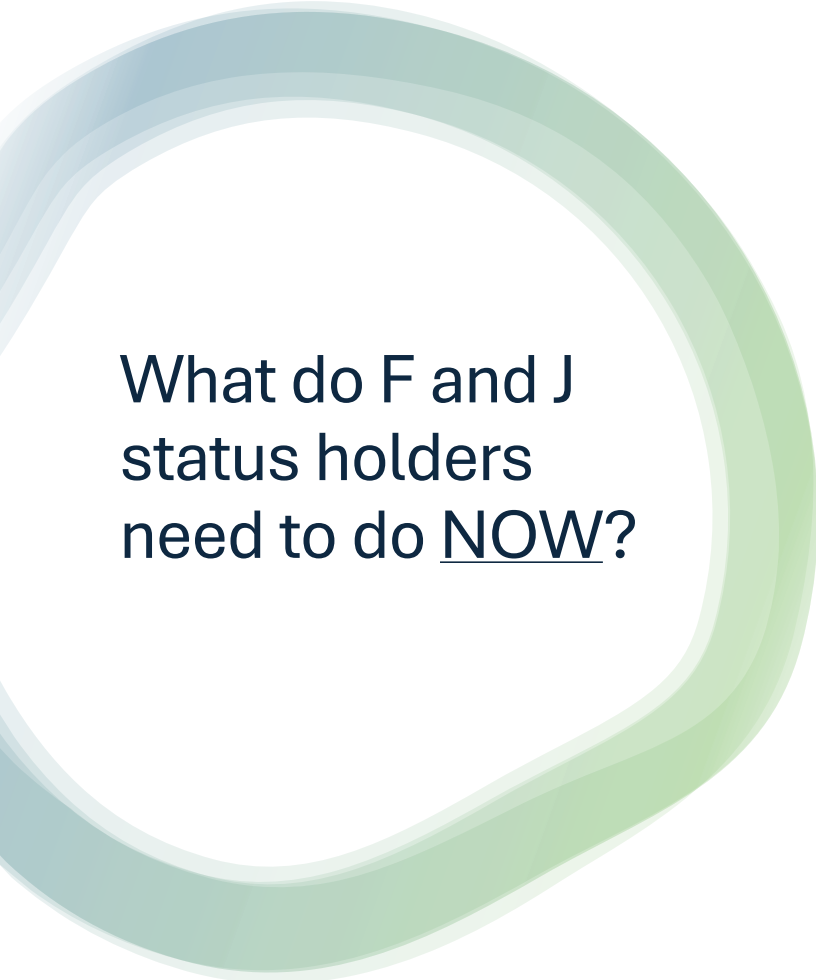


What do F and J
status holders
need to do NOW?

Continue to Maintain status and avoid violations

To do so always:

1. Maintain full-time enrollment
2. Report address changes (**mygeo** and *my.unm.edu*)
3. Refrain from unauthorized employment
4. Track the expiration dates of ALL immigration documents – ALL Documents **MUST** remain valid while in the US **EXCEPT** the visa:
 - Passport
 - I-20/DS2019
 - I-94 (new end date is called the AUD)
 - Visa (must be valid to ENTER the U.S. only)



What do F and J
status holders
need to do NOW?

- Apply for an extension
EARLY!!!
- Plan for any program or
school changes as far in
advance as possible
and save for extension
filing fees



Q & A on the new rule



Enrollment Issues Review

- ALL international students on F and J student visas must be enrolled primarily in face-to-face classes
- Students must physically attend in-person classes
- In-person includes Hybrid, Arranged and Web enhanced

Enrollment Rules

GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH ASSISTANTSHIP:

- 6 credit hours minimum for each fall and spring semester
- 3 credit hours MUST be In-person:
 - Instructional method = Face-to-face/Web-Enhanced/Hybrid/Arranged (like thesis or dissertation)
- 3 or more credit hours can be online
 - Instructional method = Online
- MUST receive a standard grade (A-F) or Credit/No credit (Audit and Withdrawal do NOT count!)
- **Students should be attending classes on a regular basis!**

Enrollment Rules

GRADUATE STUDENTS WITHOUT ASSISTANTSHIP:

- 9 credit hours minimum for each fall and spring semester
- 6 credit hours MUST be In-person
 - Instructional method = Face-to-face/Web Enhanced/Hybrid/Arranged (like thesis or dissertation)
- 3 or more credit hours can be online
 - Instructional method = Online
- MUST receive a standard grade (A-F) or Credit/No credit (Audit and Withdrawal do NOT count in this number!)
- **Students should be attending classes on a regular basis!**

Enrollment Rules

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

- 12 credit hours minimum for each fall and spring semester
- 9 credit hours MUST be In-person
 - Instructional method = Face-to-face/Web Enhanced/Hybrid/Arranged (like thesis or dissertation)
- 3 or more credit hours can be online
 - Instructional method = Online
- MUST receive a standard grade (A-F) or Credit/No credit (Audit and Withdrawal do NOT count in this number!)
- **Students should be attending classes on a regular basis!**

Enrollment Exceptions

VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS EXIST !

All must be authorized IN ADVANCE by the international advisor!!!

EXCEPTION TYPES:

1. Academic (Uncommon and Common Types)
2. Medical

Enrollment Exceptions: Academic

Uncommon exceptions:

- First year only: Initial difficulties with English language, reading requirements or American teaching methods
- Improper course level placement

Common exceptions: (still MUST be authorized)

- Graduates completing the thesis or dissertation
- Undergraduates in final semester of coursework

Grad Full-time Exception -Completion

<https://iss.unm.edu/assets/documents/certification-of-completion-graduates.pdf>

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE ACADEMIC/THESIS/DISSERTATION ADVISOR OR AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, NOT BY THE STUDENT!

Student's name: _____

UNM ID #: _____

1. Date student will complete all degree requirements: _____ for degree of (circle one):
Master's/coursework option Master's/comprehensive exam option Master's/thesis option PhD
2. Please list all remaining courses (other than thesis/dissertation) that are REQUIRED for program completion (student is still entitled to take optional courses).

Subject	Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours

3. Are there any other requirements not listed above? Yes No
If yes, please list these here:

4. Please indicate if the student is a recipient of the Amigo Scholarship Yes No

Name of Academic/Thesis/Dissertation Advisor-Please Print

Signature of Academic/Thesis/Dissertation Advisor

Telephone Number and email address

Date

Enrollment Exceptions: **Medical**

- Medical excuse authorized by Medical Doctor or licensed psychologist
- Needs to recommend that you drop classes due to illness or medical condition



Curricular Practical Training Update

- DHS issued threatening memos to Designated School officials (DSOs) on August 12 and 24th
- These memos re-interpret longstanding agency interpretations of CPT (since 1991)
- The reinterpretation goes beyond the regulatory language to assert that CPT **MUST** be required for all students in the program
- University Counsel, GEO and the office of the Provost are currently reviewing UNM practices

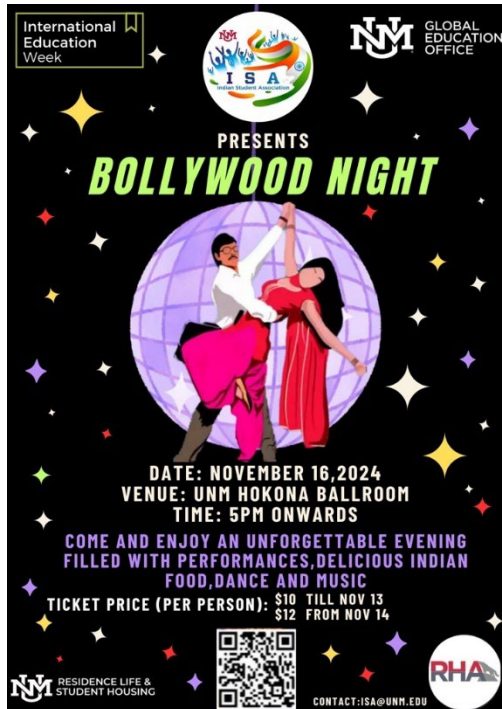
ISSS Initiatives and Programs

THE ANTIDOTE TO ALL THE CHAOS!!!

A solid green horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

ISSS Engagement Programs

- Welcome Events:
- Picnic fall
- Dinner/Dance Spring



**International
Nights:**
Open to
Everyone!



➤ Trips:



➤ Social Activities:



➤ Workshops

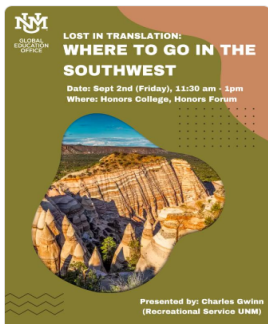
Kaltura Capture is available for you to use via Canvas @UNM to easily create video and audio recordings for your course. We will take you ...



Wed Aug 24th 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Louie's Lounge

Join us every Wednesday from 4PM-6PM at Louie's Lounge located on the bottom floor of the Student Union Building for video games, pool, ...



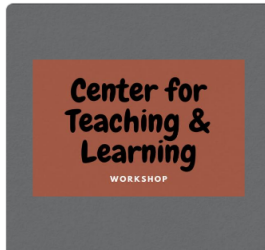
Presented by: Charles Swain
(Recreational Service UNM)



Fri Aug 26th 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Work in the US as an international student

Join our International Advisor Carolyn Kaltenbach for our Working in the U.S. as an international student workshop! This session will focus ...



Wed Sep 7th 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Finding Mentoring

Zoom registration link:
unm.zoom.us/j/9b9g2TMKa1GB8qQK0cXCrNkrl

on a boat over to the back of the ferry, where we will board the tram ...



Wed Aug 31st 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Ten Steps for Success in Grad School

Graduate Support offers a variety of free workshops every semester. Each workshop addresses a topic area that is essential to building ...



Wed Sep 7th 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Louie's Lounge

Join us every Wednesday from 4PM-6PM at Louie's Lounge located on the bottom floor of the Student Union Building for video games, pool, ...

at the Duck Pond, the Global Education Office will be hosting a welcome picnic for new and returning ...



Wed Aug 31st 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Louie's Lounge

Join us every Wednesday from 4PM-6PM at Louie's Lounge located on the bottom floor of the Student Union Building for video games, pool, ...



Fri Sep 9th 11:30am - 1:00pm

Lost in Translation: US Election Mania



ISSS Engagement Programs



➤ “Lobo Friend”

matches domestic and international students

➤ International Service Corps Volunteer opportunities at UNM and ABQ community

International Education Week

Events 11/16 – 11/21



International Education Week

Click [HERE](#) to submit an event.

International Education Week (IEW) is celebrated across the U.S. the week of **November 18 - 22, 2024**. At the University of New Mexico, IEW is coordinated by the [Global Education Office](#).

International Education Week (IEW) is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to recognize the global exchange environment between the United States and other countries.

To keep up with all the latest updates, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



<https://global.unm.edu/activities-events/international-education-week.html>

International Admissions

A Unit of the Global Education Office



[Apply Now](#)

A Beautiful, Historic Campus

On the sunny slope of the Rocky Mountains in the dynamic city of Albuquerque

International Admissions & Recruitment

Contact US

Phone: 505-277-4032

Website:
<http://international.unm.edu/>

Email: goglobal@unm.edu

International Admissions Highlights

Application Deadlines

Fall Semester - March 1st – May 1st

- Required Document Submission: June 1st - admission & financial notification

Spring Semester - May 1st – August 1st

- Required Document Submission: September 1st - admission & financial support notification

Summer Semester - December 1st (Students not in the US)

- Required Document Submission: February 1st

Summer Semester - March 1st (Students already in the US at US institutions -- i.e.: transfer)

- Required Document Submission: May 15th

Transfer students within the US: a bit more flexible on the dates!!!

Forms in OnBase for students to submit documentation

- Deferral requests
- IELTS exam results
- Passport(s)
- Financial documents
- Address changes
- Current visa or immigration status information



NEW International Admission Decision Form

Please return the decision forms!!!

INTL Decision Form

International Admissions Decision Form

Graduate Department

Department *

Degree

Semester

Major

Amigo Scholarship:

Reduces tuition to in-state! No Cost to department!

Student Information

First Name *

Last Name *

UNM ID *

Comments

The Amigo Scholarship will be automatic if the student is not awarded an assistantship.

Is the department granting this student an assistantship?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, stipend amount will be:

\$ per month

\$\$ Per month

Number of months

9,10,12
months

Plus number of tuition hours to be paid by department per semester and summer:

Hours to be paid

Credit hours per SEMESTER

Additional Financial Aid for Summer

Any additional funding

Please note: Students may not be awarded an assistantship simultaneously. If a student is awarded an assistantship at a later time, the Academic Department must notify the Office of International Admissions immediately. By accepting the assistantship, the student forfeits the International Amigo Scholarship.

Department Decision

☐ Admit

☐ Cancel (Student notified by department)

☐ Refuse (Department must notify student by email)

NOTE: Prior to official admission by the University and issuance of an I-20, all applicant post-secondary credentials are subject to review by the Office of International Admissions for completeness and authenticity.

Submit Form To Graduate Dept

Submit

AMIGO Scholarship Process

The Amigo Scholarship will be automatic if the student is not awarded an assistantship.

Not awarded to online (MOP) program students

International Admissions will notify nominated applicant

- Official award notification email will be sent by International Admissions with deadline to accept the scholarship and provide needed documentation
- **Students cannot hold assistantship and Amigo scholarship simultaneously.** Please notify International Admissions if applicant awarded assistantship

Maintaining Eligibility



GRAD STUDENTS MUST MAINTAIN AT LEAST 3.0 GPA AND ENROLLMENT OF 9 CREDIT HOURS EVERY SEMESTER.



CREDITS MUST BE GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES OR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES THAT ARE EITHER PREREQUISITES FOR THE PROGRAM OR AVAILABLE FOR CREDIT AT GRADUATE LEVEL. COURSES MUST BE ON MAIN CAMPUS.



STUDENTS CANNOT HOLD ASSISTANTSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP SIMULTANEOUSLY.

IF ELIGIBILITY IS NOT MET HAVE YOUR STUDENTS SUBMIT THE AMIGO PETITION FORM. THIS FORM IS BOTH AT *INTERNATIONAL.UNM.EDU* AND AT *ISSS.UNM.EDU* UNDER FORMS.

Scholarship Petitions now reviewed by ISSS!

Offer Letter Language of International Students

Letters from the department for international candidates should read as **Accepted** into the program and not **admitted** into the program.

There should be a side note that states that International Admissions will contact the candidate with more information about completing admission process.

International students must submit the following prior to admission and receiving the I-20:

- Certificate of Financial Responsibility – coming alone or has dependents, sponsor
- Funding (recent bank statement) showing available fund for the first year of study – dependent on program
- Scan of Biographical page of passport (page with their photo)

Once this is completed, IA will **Admit** the student and process the I-20, admission letter and Welcome Packet.

What is an I20?

An I-20 is a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Students document that International Admissions issues to the student to apply for an F-1 (student) visa.

Note: this does not guarantee issuance of a visa

Issuance process:

I-20's will be issued by our office 1-3 weeks after the application process is complete.

For questions about students with a different visa type, please contact us at goglobal@unm.edu.

International students already in the US do NOT apply for another Visa.

How Do Applicants Defer Their Applications?

Applicant fills out IA Deferral Form. They can find a link for the deferral form on our website – *international.unm.edu*



Direct link: Deferral Request :: International Admissions | The University of New Mexico



Applicants may only defer **3** semesters from original application (Ex: Fall to following Fall); Need to submit a new application with supporting materials and repay the application fee beyond the three semesters.



A new Decision Form will be sent to the department for a new decision.



This form must be returned by the department in OnBase for the new semester.



Questions? Suggestions?

Our International Admissions team can answer:

- Questions regarding international academic credentials.
- Questions regarding applicant's current/intended visa status.
- Questions regarding the International Amigo Scholarship-nomination, continued eligibility, or petitions.
- Any other issues involving international applicants.