

Some Immigration Information for Canadian Citizens Attending Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU)

General Visa Status Comments:

*Canadian citizens studying at OWU (who are not also US citizens or legal permanent residents of the US) are considered international students and must abide by all immigration regulations that apply to them.

*Students are responsible for maintaining their immigration status. OWU's International & Off-Campus Programs Office (IOCP) is available to assist international students in doing so. New international students must attend all mandatory advising sessions and must enroll in UC 099 A: International Student Success during their first Fall Semester on-campus.

*Because of various international treaties, Canadian citizens studying in the USA in "F-1 student visa status" have some policies and procedures to follow that are different than citizens from all other countries. Please read the following information carefully. Please also note carefully other information provided for F-1 visa students. Please note that the following is just a précis of the most common items that come up. This is not an exhaustive account. If you have questions, you must contact the IOCP office. Do not cross a border if you have a question. Please have the 24/7/365 IOCP cell phone number handy at all times.

*Canadian international students studying at OWU must be in US "F-1 student visa status." (There are very rare exceptions to this rule, such as when a student is a dependent of a credentialed diplomat. Students who are exceptions will be notified directly.)

*Although Canadian citizens intending to be students in the USA do not need to go to a US embassy or consulate to apply for an F-1 student visa, they do need to be processed at the border to get their proper F-1 student visa status. An "F-1 student visa" is a sticker in a passport. "F-1 student visa status" is awarded upon entry into the USA by an officer of the US Customs and Border Protection Service (US CBP). (At a few international airports, such as Pearson International, US CBP offers customs and immigration "Pre-Clearance" services, <http://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports/preclearance/preclear-locations>.) See below for more information.

*Although Canadian citizens are permitted to attend school part-time under US visa regulations, this rule is very, very unlikely to apply to OWU students. You must be a full-time student unless you have formally applied for and received part-time permission.

The "Form I-20" Certificate of Eligibility:

*All international students are required to get an I-20 from OWU prior to crossing into the USA to attend classes. Canadians do not need to apply for an F-1 visa, but they do need to get F-1 visa status when they cross into the USA. The Form I-20 is the primary document indicating your eligibility to receive F-1 visa status (student) immigration benefits, including the right to enroll in classes.

*After being accepted by OWU, students need to provide additional financial and other documentation in order to be issued a Form I-20. Students must read all parts of the Form I-20 and complete carefully the required section 11.

*The SEVIS fee. Students must pay the one-time SEVIS (“Student and Exchange Visitor Information System”) fee on-line after they have received their Form I-20 but prior to entering the USA. See the SEVIS fee website: <http://www.fmjfee.com>. Students must print out a copy of their payment receipt and carry it with them—it will be required at the border.

*As with all international students, Canadian students must have their I-20 forms endorsed each semester by the IOCP and must also complete the formal check-in procedure each semester.

Entering the USA:

*Prior to entering the USA, Canadian students should review the information on their I-20, make sure their passports will not expire in the near future (say, within the next 12 months), and collect all of the following documents and get them in order:

- **Form I-20, properly endorsed
- **Canadian passport, valid
- **SEVIS Fee Receipt (Form I-901)
- **OWU acceptance letter
- **OWU financial aid (scholarship/grant) letter
- **Financial documentation provided to OWU for issuance of I-20 form
- **Copy of course registration or un-official transcript

It is a good idea for student and parents to have photocopies of these.

*When entering the USA, Canadian students must make sure that they are entering as students in F-1 student visa status, not as visitors. You cannot change from visitor to student after you have entered the USA. You cannot enroll in classes as a visitor.

*NEXUS (and GOES) students: When entering the USA, Canadian students cannot use the NEXUS line. If you have a NEXUS (GOES) card, contact the NEXUS Program about your entry as an F-1 status student as soon as possible. NEXUS status may be voided.

*When entering the USA for the first time on an OWU I-20, Canadian students must indicate clearly to the CBP inspecting officer (in the booth at a land border crossing or at the airport kiosk) that they have a Form I-20 to be processed. Students at land border crossings will need to park and go into the inspection building, as directed by the CBP officer. Students at airports may need to go to secondary inspection.

*After the initial entry on your OWU Form I-20 and first-semester on-campus processing, entry into the USA will be much easier. (Please refer to IOCP documents regarding travel and re-entry.)

*Students will be given information about their “I-94” admissions number by the CBP inspecting officer. This is important information and must be retained.

*Students may not enter the USA more than 30 days prior to their program start date.

*Students cannot enter as visitors and then change their immigration status.

Other points:

*Canadian students in F-1 visa status are eligible to work in the USA but only in narrow and restricted circumstances. Students must attend IOCP sessions for more information about work permission. Students must not do any work for remuneration of any sort without the permission of the IOCP. Students who work without permission will have their SEVIS I-20 records terminated, will be forced to leave the USA immediately and may be subject to a ten year bar from entry into the USA.

*Students in F-1 visa status may remain in the USA for any period of time as long as they are maintaining their student status.

*Students must review: <http://iocp.owu.edu/F1ImmigrationRegulations.php> . Included therein is helpful information for all international students.

*Also helpful: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/visit/canada-bermuda.html>

*Students are required to enroll in the OWU Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan. Waiving is allowed in certain limited circumstances.

*Canadian students in F-1 status must file US IRS tax returns for every year that they are in the USA while in F-1 status, even if they earn no income. IOCP will assist with this paperwork.

*IOCP will assist students and parents with Revenue Canada (CRA/ARC) income tax paperwork. IOCP will also assist with Canadian student loan paperwork.

*IOCP Contact Information:

iocp@owu.edu

During regular office hours: +1-740-368-3070

24/7 Director's cell phone: +1-614-579-5398