2014 - 2015
New International Student
WELCOME GUIDE

An electronic copy of this Welcome Guide and other helpful information for new students is also available on our website www.princeton.edu/davisic
WELCOME to Princeton University!

On behalf of the entire staff of the Davis International Center, I send my warm wishes and congratulations on your acceptance to Princeton University!

The Davis International Center (Davis IC) is committed to providing services and programs that support the development and welfare of international students and scholars on multiple levels — immigration regulatory advising and processing, cultural adjustment, social enrichment, and assistance with practical matters related to living in the U.S.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with helpful information as you prepare for your travels and begin your studies at Princeton. Please read all of the information carefully. Keep it with you during your travels and during your first few weeks on campus. If you have any questions please email the Davis IC at puvisa@princeton.edu. We encourage you to check our website throughout the summer for additional information and updated announcements: www.princeton.edu/davisic

Once again, congratulations! We are eager to meet you!

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CHAPTER 1: Visa & Immigration Concerns

A. VISA TYPES

In order to enter the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student, you are required to have a valid student visa stamp. A visa stamp is a multicolored computerized label affixed to a page in your passport by a U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad, following a scheduled visa appointment.

Canadian citizens are not required to have a visa stamp to enter the U.S, but are required to have an I-20 or DS-2019 form and to pay the SEVIS fee before entering the U.S. Canadian landed immigrants are required to obtain a visa stamp.

It is best to apply for your visa at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country. See www.usembassy.gov for a list of U.S. Embassies/Consulates’ websites where you can find specific instructions for the visa application. You will need to make an appointment and appear in person for your visa interview.

B. STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE U.S.

1. Applying for an F-1/J-1 Visa: It is best to apply for your visa at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country. See www.usembassy.gov for a list of U.S. Embassies/Consulates' websites where you can find specific instructions for the visa application. You will need to make an appointment and appear in person for your visa interview.

2. Visa Application Documents: Generally, students are required to submit and present the following documents when applying for a visa:
   - DS-160 Visa Application Form (available at: https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/)
   - Valid Passport
   - I-20 Form (F-1 visa applicants) or Form DS-2019 Form (J-1 visa applicants)
   - SEVIS Fee Payment Receipt Notice
   - Documentation of Acceptance to Princeton University
     - For Undergraduate students, this is the Princeton University Admission Letter;
     - For Graduate students, this is the Princeton University Admission Reply
   - Original or Notarized Copies of Guarantee of Financial Support
   - If you are receiving financial support from Princeton, you must show:
     - Undergraduate Students: Princeton University Financial Aid Award Letter. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such in your Financial Aid Letter, then no other financial documentation is necessary.
     - Graduate Students: Princeton University Admission Reply. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such on your Admission Reply, then no other financial documentation is necessary.
     - Personal Support: If you are not receiving support from Princeton, or need to supplement your support from Princeton, you will need to present additional documentation in the form of bank statements, letters of support from family, scholarship letters, etc.
   PLEASE NOTE: Check with the Embassy/Consulate if any additional documentation is needed.

3. SEVIS Fee: Students are required to pay a $200 (F-1 students) or $180 (J-1 students) SEVIS fee before applying for a visa. The SEVIS fee may be paid by credit or debit card directly at www.fmjfee.com. After paying the fee, make sure that you print a receipt as you will need it for your visa interview.
   PLEASE NOTE: Students transferring their F-1/J-1 SEVIS records from another institution to Princeton are not required to pay the SEVIS fee.
4. Apply Early: Students are encouraged to apply for their visa early to provide enough time for visa processing and any possible delays. You should note that Embassies/Consulates may not issue your student visa more than 120 days in advance of your program start date. At some embassies, an application may be submitted more than 120 days in advance of the I-20/DS-2019 start date in order to accommodate long processing times.

For more detailed instructions, please check the website of the Embassy/Consulate where you will apply for a visa.

5. Visa Application Timeframe: The exact application procedures and the amount of time required for processing the DS-160 application vary at each U.S. Embassy/Consulate. You should determine these procedures well in advance by consulting the U.S. Embassy/Consulate website in the country in which you plan to apply for your student visa. Information on visa wait times is also available at: www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html

6. Additional Administrative Processing (Security Clearance): Some visa applications require further administrative processing, which takes additional time after the visa applicant’s interview by a Consular Officer. Administrative processing may be applied to students for any of the following reasons:
   • Due to the country of origin;
   • Due to the applicant’s name being on a U.S. Government watch list or sharing the same name with someone who is on that list;
   • Doing research in a field of study that is considered “sensitive” by the U.S. Government;
   • Concerns about technology transfer, especially for students from countries considered to possess nuclear capability, etc.

You will be informed by the U.S. Consular Officer if further administrative processing is necessary for your application. Some security clearances are processed within a week or couple of weeks at most, but some may take up to several weeks. The amount of time a security clearance takes depends on individual circumstances. Your visa will not be issued until the clearance is received. Once a visa application is subjected to security clearance, there is not much you can do, except to inform the Davis IC at puvisa@princeton.edu and wait. Security clearances cannot be expedited by Princeton University or by U.S. Congressional intervention.

PLEASE NOTE: All nationals of Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria are required to undergo administrative processing security clearances every time they apply for a visa, regardless of their program of study.

7. Visa Denials: If your visa application is denied, you should request a written explanation of the denial from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate. The most common reason for visa denial is a failure to demonstrate non-immigrant intent. To obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa, the U.S. Consular Officer must be convinced that you have non-immigrant intent; that is, that you have a residence abroad that you do not intend to abandon. You may be able to demonstrate this through family, educational, business, or financial ties to your home country. In addition, you should be prepared to answer questions about how your field of study relates to your future employment and career goals.

You may be able to re-apply for a visa at a later date. However, it is not advisable to simply resubmit the original application materials. You should only reapply if you are able to submit updated evidence that addresses the reason for the initial denial. You will find more information about visa denials at http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/denials.html

PLEASE NOTE: If the U.S. Embassy/Consulate indicates a problem with your visa application due to SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) reasons, contact the Davis IC immediately by email at puvisa@princeton.edu or by telephone at +001-609-258-5006.
8. **Study Restrictions for B1/B2 Visitor Visas:** *DO NOT* enter the U.S. as a visitor, either with a B-1 or a B-2 visa stamp if you plan to study at Princeton. In addition, if you are from a country whose citizens are eligible for the Visa Waiver Program, *DO NOT* enter the U.S. in a WT (waiver tourist) or WB (waiver business) status through the ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) program. Individuals in visitor visa status are *not* eligible to attend classes or engage in any employment while in the U.S. You must enter as an F-1 or a J-1 student.

9. **Arrival at U.S. Port of Entry:**

Documentation: Be prepared to present the following documentation at the U.S. Port of Entry:

- Valid Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019 Form
- SEVIS Fee Receipt Notice
- Documentation of Acceptance to Princeton University
  - For Undergraduate students, this is the *Princeton University Admission Letter*;
  - For Graduate students, this is the *Princeton University Admission Reply*
- Original or Notarized Copies of Guarantee of Financial Support
- If you are receiving support from Princeton, you must show:
  - Undergraduate Students: *Princeton University Financial Aid Award Letter*. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such in your Financial Aid Letter, then no other financial documentation is necessary.
  - Graduate Students: *Princeton University Admission Reply*. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such on your Admission Reply, then no other financial documentation is necessary.
  - Personal Support: If you are not receiving support from Princeton, or need to supplement your support from Princeton, you will need to present additional documentation in the form of bank statements, letters of support from family, scholarship letters, etc.

**IMPORTANT:** Carry these documents with you. Do not check them in your baggage.

For additional information, consult the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website at: [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/)

What happens if you have incomplete documentation: If the U.S. Port of Entry Officer determines that you do not have the proper documents, he/she may issue Form I-515, a Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor, and require you to submit the proper documents to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) within 30 days of arrival.

If you are issued a Form I-515, you *must* report to the Davis IC with all of your documents *immediately* upon arriving on campus.

Contact the Davis IC immediately if you have encountered any problems at the U.S. Port of Entry. If there is an emergency and you need to contact us after regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. EDT) please call Princeton Public Safety at (609) 258-1000.

**C. STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE U.S. / TRANSFER STUDENTS**

1. **Students in F-1/J-1 Status Transferring to Princeton from Another U.S. School:**
   - **F-1 STUDENTS:** If you have transferred your F-1 SEVIS record from another U.S. school to Princeton, you have been issued a I-20 Form with “Transfer Pending” indicated in Item 3. You can use this document to re-enter the U.S. after traveling abroad in the summer. After registering for the academic year, you will be issued another I-20 Form indicating *continued attendance* in Item 3.
• **J-1 STUDENTS**: If you have transferred your J-1 SEVIS record for another U.S. school to Princeton you have been issued a DS-2019 Form under Princeton’s sponsorship. Your transfer has been completed if you have received a DS-2019 Form from Princeton. No further action is required.

2. **Old School Name on Visa after Transfer to Princeton**: You do not need to apply for a new visa stamp if your current F-1/J-1 visa is still valid. Even though your visa specifies your previous school’s name, you will be able to use it to re-enter the U.S. until its expiration date. This only applies to students who completed transfer of their F-1/J-1 SEVIS records to and received I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2010 (J-1 students) from Princeton.

3. **Students in Other Visa Types**: Students who wish to study at Princeton in a visa type other than F-1 or J-1 student visa must ensure that their visa allows full-time studies and employment authorization.

Graduate Students: PLEASE NOTE: Any on-campus work (including assistantship in teaching and assistantship in research) requires that you hold an immigration status that allows you to be employed. While it may be possible that you begin your program in a status other than F-1 or J-1, you will probably be required to change to F-1 or J-1 status at some point in the future. If your program requires that you work, you **must** have a visa status that allows you to work at Princeton to fulfill this requirement.

If you are in the U.S. in another non-immigrant status, you may change your status to F-1 or J-1 once you obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 Form from Princeton University.

There are two ways to change your status to F-1 or J-1:
• **Obtaining F-1/J-1 Status by Travel**: You will need to depart the U.S. and apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad. Once you obtain a visa, you will then enter the U.S. with your passport, visa, I-20 or DS-2019 Form and other supporting documents. Please refer to Section A of this Guide for more information on a visa application procedures.
• **Applying for a Change of Status within the U.S.**: If you choose not to travel outside the U.S. to obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa, you will need to apply for a change of status to F-1/J-1 by submitting an application to USCIS from within the U.S. You may wish to consult with an immigration attorney to assist with your change of status application. Be advised that the application process can be lengthy (processing times vary greatly around the U.S. from 2 to 5 months) and you cannot begin your assistantship, or on campus job, until your change of status to F-1 or J-1 is approved.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are currently in B-1/B-2 status, we strongly encourage that you obtain your F-1/J-1 status by travel, unless your B-1/B-2 visa or I-94 is marked “prospective students”.

**CHAPTER 2: Traveling to Princeton**

**A. LOCATION & TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Location**: Princeton University is located in Princeton Borough, Mercer County, New Jersey, approximately 50 miles southwest of New York City; 35 miles southwest of Newark, New Jersey; and 45 miles northeast of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For the latest travel directions to campus, please consult the Princeton University Travel webpage: www.princeton.edu/main/visiting/travel/

2. **Airport Arrival Information**: Although it is possible to reach Princeton from all of the nearby airports (JFK, LaGuardia, Liberty Newark, and Philadelphia), we recommend that you arrange arrival at Newark Liberty International Airport if possible. Newark Liberty Airport is the closest airport to campus and has easiest local access to Princeton.
3. Ground Transportation from Newark Liberty, JFK, LaGuardia or Philadelphia Airports: Airport Shuttle Van Service: Princeton University has negotiated fares with State Shuttle, (formerly known as Olympic Airporter) for rides to and from the airports in the New York City area and Philadelphia. For more information, visit www.stateshuttle.com or call the toll-free number 1-800-427-3207.

   - State Shuttle picks up and drops off at two locations on or near the Princeton campus: the Nassau Inn in downtown Princeton; and the Baker Hockey Rink on the Princeton campus
   - A ride can be reserved either online directly with the State Shuttle
   - You should receive a reservation confirmation before your trip and an invoice with final charges by email.

4. Train Transportation from Newark Liberty International Airport:

   Passengers arriving at Newark International Airport (EWR) can take the AirTrain directly from the arrivals terminal to the Rail Link station to catch a New Jersey Transit Train to Princeton. Ticket vending machines for New Jersey Transit are available at stations located in the airport passenger terminals.

   The one-way cost to Princeton Junction is about $16. You should purchase a ticket through to Princeton Station, which will cost about $18. PLEASE NOTE: It is best to purchase tickets at vending machines prior to boarding the train. If you purchase a ticket on board, you will be assessed an additional $5 surcharge. Also, conductors on board the train will not accept bills over $20. The trip is about 5 to 15 minutes from the airport terminal to the Rail Link Station.

   At the Rail Link Station, you will board a Trenton-bound train and ride it for about 45 minutes to the Princeton Junction stop.

   To get to Princeton University from Princeton Junction, you may take a small commuter train referred to as the “Dinky” (also a NJ Transit train), which connects Princeton Junction to campus (Princeton Station).

   PLEASE NOTE: “Dinky” train service is limited on weekends and late at night. The last “Dinky” departs Princeton Junction train station around 12:47 a.m. and New Jersey Transit usually coordinates train arrival times with Dinky departures. Other than the Dinky, there is no public transportation between the Princeton Junction train station and downtown Princeton after this time, so you may choose to take a taxi from Princeton Junction to the campus, if you prefer.

5. Princeton Taxis:

   Travelers who miss the 12:47 a.m. “Dinky” train from Princeton Junction to Princeton Station or who have a lot of luggage may take a taxi from Princeton Junction to Princeton. Taxis are usually waiting at the Princeton Junction station, but if necessary, you may call:

   - AAA Taxi: (609) 921-1177
   - Taxi Stand: (609) 924-1222
   - Princeton Taxi: (609) 882-5606
   - A Local Taxi: (609) 924-7300

   Taxi fare from Princeton Junction to Princeton Borough is approximately $20 plus a 15% driver’s tip. Verify the fare and pickup locations with the taxi dispatcher when you call, as there are two sides to the train tracks (northbound and southbound), each with separate taxi pick-up locations.

B. TRAVELING SAFE

   While traveling, you should keep money, passports, travel and visa documents, jewelry, and other valuables on you at all times. You are advised not to leave luggage unattended. We recommend that you do not leave items of value and importance in your luggage, locked automobiles, or airport or train station storage lockers. Do not check valuables such as laptop computers in your luggage but rather keep them with you on board the plane. Be sure to monitor your belongings!
If you have an emergency, you should seek airport security or the nearest Travelers Aid Society representative during business hours. The Travelers Aid Society telephone numbers are:

- Newark Airport: (973) 623-5052
- JFK Airport: (718) 656-4870
- Philadelphia Airport: (215) 523-7580

CHAPTER 3: After Arrival at Princeton

A. IMPORTANT: ADDRESS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Residential U.S. Address: All F-1 and J-1 students are required to report their U.S. residential address within 10 days of moving into that residence. Students must update their address in the online SCORE system.

   PLEASE NOTE: This must be the address where you live, not your departmental or Frist mailbox address. You are also required to report any future change of residential address within 10 days of the change in the SCORE system. The Davis IC will receive automatic notice of your new address and will then report the change to SEVIS on your behalf.

2. Permanent Home Country Address: All F-1 and J-1 students are also required to report any change of their permanent address in their home country in the online Princeton SCORE system.

B. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING

1. Housing Assignment: If you are an incoming member of the Class of 2018, you will live in one of the six Residential Colleges during your freshmen year. Your Residential College and roommate assignment will be sent to your Princeton email address in mid-July. For more information, you can check the Welcome Class of 2018 site available in late spring on the Princeton homepage: [www.princeton.edu](http://www.princeton.edu)

2. Check In/Room Key Pick Up: If you arrive in Princeton on Wednesday, August 27th for the Undergraduate International Orientation (IO), you will pick up your key during International Orientation Check-In. Additional information about IO check-in will be on the Davis IC website in early June.

   If you arrive on campus at any other date after August 27th during business hours (9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.), keys can be picked at the Housing Office, located in the New South Building. After business hours, you can contact Princeton Public Safety located at 200 Elm Drive. A Public Safety Officer will give you access to your dormitory room. On the following business day, you should visit the Housing Office to pick up your key and sign in.

   For additional information and assistance, please visit the Undergraduate Housing Office website: [www.hres.princeton.edu/undergraduates/move-in](http://www.hres.princeton.edu/undergraduates/move-in)

C. GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING

The Graduate Housing Office will send the contract for an apartment or a dormitory with arrival instructions to all Graduate students who have made prior arrangements for on-campus housing. Please consult these instructions for specific arrival information.

If you arrive in Princeton during business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., keys can be picked at the Graduate Housing Office, located at 506 New South Building. After hours, keys can be picked up at Public Safety, located at 200 Elm Drive. The Graduate Housing Office asks that if you intend to arrive after hours or over a weekend that you notify them one week in advance to ensure your keys and welcome packet are available at Public Safety.
For information regarding your housing assignment and procedures, please visit the Graduate Student Housing website: [http://hres.princeton.edu/graduates/move-in](http://hres.princeton.edu/graduates/move-in)

**D. LOCAL HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you do not have confirmed housing arrangements on campus before arrival or if there will be a delay moving into your housing, you may need to stay in a local hotel until your housing move-in date. If so, you should make reservations in advance. If you mention that you are a Princeton student, some hotel establishments may offer you discounted rates. Also, several hotels offer additional services, such as shuttles to town and free breakfasts. Inquire about amenities when making reservations.

Hotels listed below have a restaurant on the premises, or within easy walking distance.

**Located In Princeton:**
- Nassau Inn Palmer Square* (walking distance to campus): (609) 921-7500

**Located on Route 1 North of Princeton:**
- Courtyard by Marriott* (1 mile): (609) 716-9100
- Hampton Inn* (3 miles): (609) 951-0066
- Days Inn (5 miles): (732) 985-2666
- Doral Forrestal Hotel/Spa* (5 miles): (609) 452-7800
- Holiday Inn* (6 miles): (609) 520-1200
- Radisson* (6 miles): (609) 452-2400
- Westin Princeton at Forrestal* (5 miles): (609) 452-7900

**Located on Route 1 South of Princeton:**
- Hyatt Place* (3 miles): (609) 720-0200
- Clarion Hotel Palmer Inn (3 miles): (609) 452-2500
- Hyatt Regency* (1.5 miles): (609) 987-1234
- Comfort Inn (3 miles): (609) 896-3700

**CHAPTER 4: Additional Practical Information**

**A. HEALTH MATTERS**

1. **Student Health Insurance:** Every student is required to have health insurance coverage while enrolled at Princeton University. This health insurance *must* cover off-campus specialty care and hospitalization not provided by the University Health Services (UHS): [www.princeton.edu/uhs/](http://www.princeton.edu/uhs/)

   All students are automatically enrolled in the Princeton University Student Health Plan (SHP). All costs associated with the SHP and the services at UHS are included in the total tuition and required fees.

2. **Dental & Vision Care:** We recommend that students take care of any outstanding dental or vision care at home prior to your arrival. If you should need care during your students, students may also choose to participate in and pay for, optional vision and dental plans that provide benefits beyond those included in the Student Health Plan. For further information, see the UHS website: [www.princeton.edu/uhs/](http://www.princeton.edu/uhs/)

3. **Medical Records for Students & Dependents:** Bring copies of your medical records and the medical records of your dependents (if any) who are coming with you. You should keep them with other important documents so they will be on hand if necessary. PLEASE NOTE: All medical records should be translated into English before coming to the U.S.
4. **Preserving Your Mental Health & Physical Health:** As a student, you will spend a great deal of time caring for yourself academically and socially; however, the university provides a number of services designed to keep students physically and mentally healthy. University Health Services (UHS) offers several services to students, ranging from outpatient services to counseling and psychological services.

More information for international students about Healthcare in the U.S is available at: www.internationalstudentguidetotheusa.com/articles/healthcare_insurance.htm

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**B. SOCIAL TRANSITION**

1. **Adjustment to the U.S. Culture:** Coming to the U.S. to live and study can be an exciting and challenging experience. Learning to function in a new culture is not easy, and it is natural to feel anxious and frustrated at times.

Those feelings are a normal part of the experience. However, the more effort you invest into the experience, the more you’ll learn from it. If you make an effort to meet new people, form friendships, and get involved, your adjustment will be easier.

You should read the *Living in Princeton Guide* on the Davis IC website for more information about U.S. cultural and practical matters at: www.princeton.edu/davisic

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**C. PRACTICAL MATTERS**

1. **Climate in New Jersey:** New Jersey is a mid-Atlantic state, so you should come prepared for variable weather: very cold winters, hot summers, and pleasant days in between (fall and spring). The temperature may frequently drop to between 5 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit (-12 to -15 degrees Celsius) in the winter, with high temperatures 90 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit (32 to 35 degrees Celsius) and high humidity in the summer.

2. **What to Pack:** You should carefully plan what items to bring with you and what can wait to be purchased after you arrive in Princeton. Factors to take into consideration include: cost of shipping, additional baggage charges, immediate need, and purchasing cost differential.

You should plan to have very warm clothing for the colder months (late October through April), including sweaters, sweatshirts, a heavy coat, hat, gloves, scarf and warm boots/shoes; a hooded raincoat is also recommended. For the warmer months (late April-September) you should plan for cooler clothing, including shorts, skirts, t-shirts, and tank tops.

What to wear at Princeton: Students generally wear informal clothing such as slacks, sweatshirts, sweaters, blouses, blue jeans, and shirts are acceptable for women as well as men. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. For special occasions and events, it is recommended that students have formal/semi-formal attire, which may include a suit, shirt and tie, formal dress and evening wear.

3. **Where to Shop:** In the town of Princeton, there are several places to shop for clothing and other supplies, but it can be expensive at stores such as Ralph Lauren, J. Crew, Banana Republic, Ann Taylor, and Urban Outfitters. For more information about shopping in town, you can reference the *Living in Princeton Guide* on the Davis IC website: www.princeton.edu/davisic

4. **Baggage & Mail:** We regret that the Davis IC cannot accept or store baggage for students. Therefore, please *do not* send any items to our office. When mailing clothes and other items to campus, mark the package(s) “used personal effects” as this will facilitate customs clearance.
Any items that must be shipped should be timed for delivery after you have arrived in Princeton. Please contact a U.S. Consulate or Embassy for customs regulations and restrictions on property brought to the U.S. You may also consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website: www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel

5. Cell Phone Service: While some students may come to the U.S. with a cell phone from their home country, many students elect to switch to a U.S. mobile carrier since it will be more affordable and convenient. There are a number of providers in the area (Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint) that provide cellular phone service. It can be challenging to decide which company to choose, as well as which cell phone plan is best. In some cases, students may be able to purchase a U.S. cell phone online, from their home country, prior to coming to the U.S.

For more information about cell phones, refer to the Living in Princeton Guide on the Davis IC website www.princeton.edu/davisic. Most cell phone providers will be available at the International Student Orientations during the Information Fair.

6. Banking: For safety and convenience, it is advised that you keep your money in a local bank while studying at Princeton. Many banks will provide special services or accounts for students. There are several banks within walking distance of the University where you can open a Checking or a Savings account during regular banking hours.

There is a distinction between Checking and Savings accounts:
- Checking accounts can be used for transactions including making payments by writing a check and using a debit card.
- Savings accounts may have a limit to the transactions allowed but will accrue a percentage of interest.

The differences between various banks are minor, but their services and policies change from time to time. More information about banking opportunities will be provided during the International Student Orientations and is available in the Living in Princeton Guide on the Davis IC website: www.princeton.edu/davisic

D. LEGAL DOCUMENTATION & TAX

1. Social Security Number: If you will work or receive any wages while in the U.S., you will be required to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) for payment purposes. If you are eligible to apply for an SSN, you must visit the Social Security Administration http://www.ssa.gov/, located in Trenton, NJ, about 35 minutes southwest of Princeton - accessible via train or bus.

You must have a job offer/letter from your on-campus employer to qualify for an SSN. You are not eligible to apply for an SSN until you arrive in the U.S. and have secured on-campus employment. You will receive more information on how to apply for an SSN during the International Student Orientations. You can also find more information on our website at: http://www.princeton.edu/davisic

2. Individual Taxpayer Identification Number: Graduate students with fellowships are not eligible to apply for a Social Security number. Instead, students with fellowships or scholarships will receive further instructions on applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) during the International Student Orientation programs.

3. University Tax Compliance – Glacier Payroll System: Prior to the beginning of your studies, new international students who are receiving funding or payments from Princeton University will receive an email from the GLACIER payroll system that contains log-in and password information that will allow you to access the system.
GLACIER is a non-resident alien tax compliance system that uses information that you enter to determine your foreign national residency status, determine your eligibility for tax treaty benefits, and generate tax compliance documents. For questions about Glacier, contact: ntc@princeton.edu

4. New Jersey’s Driver’s License: If you will be an F-1 or J-1 student for more than a year, and you wish to drive in the U.S., New Jersey requires that you obtain a New Jersey driver license.

More information is available in the Living in Princeton Guide on the Davis IC website: www.princeton.edu/davisic. For further details about the New Jersey Motor Vehicle (MVC) rules and procedures, please consult the MVC website: www.state.nj.us/mvc

CHAPTER 5: Information for Married Students & Families

A. F-2 or J-2 DEPENDENT VISA STATUS

Married students who wish to have their families join them on a dependent F-2 or J-2 visa must document sufficient funding for their living expenses. For further details: http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/graduate/spouses-and-families/grad-dependents-2/index.xml

B. SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT AND STUDY

An F-1 student’s dependent spouse, who is in F-2 visa status, is not allowed to study full-time in the U.S. Furthermore, an F-2 dependent is not permitted to engage in any kind of employment under any circumstances. If an F-2 dependent wishes to engage in full-time studies, or studies that are more than recreational in scope, s/he must change status to F-1.

A J-1 student’s dependent spouse, who is in J-2 visa status, may apply to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for permission to work if s/he meets the application criteria. Spouses with J-2 status who want to apply for work permission while in the U.S. should consult with the Davis IC upon their arrival. J-2 dependents are allowed to study part-time or full-time in the U.S.

For further information, please consult: http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/graduate/spouses-and-families/

C. ISPPU (International Spouses and Partners of Princeton University)

ISPPU is an organization created by and for the spouses and partners of Princeton University’s international scholars and graduate students. As the official sponsor of ISPPU, the Davis International Center provides guidance and support to the organization.

ISPPU develops supportive activities and programs in which you can meet other spouses and partners and build relationships. You will learn helpful information about living in the U.S, make friends, and have fun! Many activities include families and children.

How to Join ISPPU: Please email isppu@princeton.edu and we will add you to the ISPPU mailing list. Check out the ISPPU Calendar of Activities and join ISPPU on Facebook!

D. MORE INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES & SPOUSES – www.princeton.edu/intlctr/isppu

- Social Security Numbers and Drivers Licenses for Dependents
- Enrolling your Children in Daycare and Local Schools
- A University Tiger Card for Dependents
- Auditing a Princeton University Class
Princeton University –
Davis International Center

Davis International Center
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ  08544    USA

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Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST

Summer Office Hours (June-August):
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST