



Immigration Documents for Low-Residency Programs For Students in F-1 or J-1 Status

The Chicago School is authorized to issue immigration documents to some international students who must travel to the United States for mandatory program residencies. This service is available only for programs approved for student visa sponsorship by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). The residency experience is invaluable as it provides students with the opportunity to meet peers face-to-face for a short time period while staying embedded in their home country to work toward their degree.

Depending on residency requirements, an eligible student will be issued a separate I-20/DS-2019 for the residency time period only. A Chicago School-issued I-20/DS-2019 covers only the dates a student is required to be in the US to attend a mandatory residency on a full-time basis. The student must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and obtain separate visas *for each* I-20/DS-2019 issued.

Global Engagement (GE) supports students in obtaining an I-20/DS-2019 for the purpose of residency. GE staff members are available via email at international@thechicagoschool.edu or by calling 1-800-595-6938 (option 6). Information on required documentation and timelines for I-20 issuance is available [online](#). U.S. consular officers determine eligibility for a visa at the time of request. Prior successful F-1 visa applications are not a guarantee of future approvals. Each application is taken on its own merits, and it is *possible for a student who has been issued an F-1 visa in the past to have a subsequent one denied*.

Residency Cycle

To better understand how visa issuance works, consider this example: An F-1 international student who enrolls in the Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership program in Fall 2027 would be issued an I-20/DS-2019 for the dates of residency in the first year only. This I-20/DS-2019 would cover the approximately three-and-one-half-days' residency duration. Once the I-20/DS-2019 is issued, the student would be required to pay the SEVIS fee and use the I-20/DS-2019 to obtain a F-1/J-1 visa. In Fall 2028, the student would be issued a new initial I-20/DS-2019 only for the dates covering the year 2 residency, would pay the SEVIS fee, and would use the new I-20/DS-2019 to obtain an F-1 visa.

Length of Stay in the US

United States immigration regulations allow F-1 visa holders to enter the country no more than 30 days, J-1 visa holders no more than 15 days, before the program start date listed on the I-20/DS-2019, respectively. F-1 students are extended a 60-day grace period and J-1 students 30 days to remain in the United States after the program end date listed on their I-20/DS-2019, respectively. During this time, students may remain in the United States to travel (within the country) and to make preparations to



depart. Students may not work or study during their grace period. At the conclusion of the 60-day/30-day grace period, students must depart the United States, and departing during the grace period ends the F-1/J-1 status. A student must be outside the US to be able to enter the US with a new initial I-20/DS-2019.

It is important to follow regulations stipulating length of stay in the United States and as reflected on the I-20/DS-2019. Staying past the end date and associated grace period on the I-20/DS-2019 is a direct violation of F-1/J-1 status and could jeopardize future visa applications. While in the United States, F-1/J-1 students are required to abide by all relevant immigration regulations, including being registered for a full-time course of study each term.

Employment Authorization

Because a student's physical presence in the United States in F-1/J-1 status is required for only a short time, a student attending residency will not accrue enough time consecutively in F-1/J-1 status to be eligible for either Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Academic Training.

Health Insurance Requirements

All individuals who are sponsored by The Chicago School for a student visa and enter the U.S. on a F-1/J-1 visa are required to be actively enrolled and have medical insurance to cover them and any accompanying dependents for the duration of their time in the United States. The Chicago School provides current information on [health insurance requirements](#) and vendors on their website.

Programs that do not issue I-20/DS-2019 certificates for the F-1/J-1 Visa

Many types of US visas e.g., J-2, F-2, and H-4 allow part-time or full-time study. These options should be acknowledged prior to informing a student that they may not be able to enroll.

B-1/B-2 and WB/WT status

If a student intends to pursue studies at The Chicago School, B-1/B-2 and WB/WT are not appropriate statuses. A student must not attempt to enter the United States on these statuses with the sole intention of studying or attending a residency at The Chicago School. Attempting to enter the United States in these visa statuses for the exclusive purpose of studying is a violation of U.S. visa policy.

Residency Information – *Residency requirements may change at the department level; we recommend that you confirm with your International Admissions counselor that the Residency requirements noted below are current prior to committing to your program.*

Behavior Analysis

The PhD Behavior Analysis Online program requires three residencies, one per year, held at a Chicago School Campus (locations will vary). Each residency will be three days in length. These residencies



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provide an opportunity for face-to-face interaction and networking with fellow students and faculty from around the globe. Students engage in focused seminars on topics such as professional leadership, comprehensive exams, and dissertation research.

Forensic Psychology-MA Licensure Track

The online MA Forensic Psychology Professional Counselor Licensure Track program requires that students attend two residencies, in addition to completing the curriculum, to satisfy their graduation requirements. Residencies, which are typically held on one of The Chicago School campuses, provide students the opportunity to engage with their faculty face to face as well as their peers for hands-on learning. Students will network, attend seminars, engage in group discussions and counseling practice, and attend functions such as guest speaker engagements in order to gain knowledge and develop skills within the field of forensic psychology and counseling.

International Psychology

Students enrolled in the Online Ph.D. International Psychology program must attend two Residency sessions on campus at The Chicago School. Campus locations and schedule may vary, but they are typically held in Chicago in Year 1 and Year 2. Both four-day Residencies focus on special topics in International Psychology, research methodology and dissertation development. Residencies provide important learning opportunities and face-to-face mentoring in dissertation work groups, building cohort cohesion and support. Full attendance at both Residencies is a requirement for graduation. Residency information is available in the IP Resource Café.

Educational Psychology & Technology

Students are required to attend two residencies (approximately two and one-half days each) at our Chicago campus. During these meetings, students have the opportunity to network with their colleagues of peers, program faculty, Chicago School administrative staff, and experts in the field. The focus of the first residency meeting is aimed at helping students prepare for their dissertation research, gain additional insight into the field of educational psychology and technology, and to develop an understanding of the diverse services provided at The Chicago School. At the second residency, students attend presentations from experts in the field and defend their competency examination. **** Please note The Chicago School does not currently have the eligibility to issue certificates of eligibility (I-20) for international students for this program.***

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)

Students engage in two experiential residencies. Each residency is four and one-half days, excluding travel time, and a mandatory half day of testing for Residency 1 students. Residencies currently take place at the Chicago Campus; however, in the future, the events may occur at a variety of sites across the country. The residencies provide an opportunity for face-to-face interaction and networking with program faculty and peers from around the globe. During the first residency, which occurs during Year 1 of the program, students focus on developing basic clinical counseling skills, participate in multicultural



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and ethical decision-making development activities, and complete the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam. During the second residency, in Year 2, students develop their group counseling skills through small group work, practice basic attending skills, and serve as peer facilitators for Residency 1 students. Students in both residencies also participate in large group activities, giving and receiving feedback, and completing a site based service learning project.

Business Psychology

Online students are engaged in two brief required residencies (roughly three and a half days each) at the Chicago campus-providing an opportunity for face-to-face interaction and networking with fellow students from around the globe who bring a wealth of diverse business experiences and perspectives. At the first residency, students meet with their cohorts and faculty members and engage in focused seminars. At the second residency, students participate in their competency exam.

Organizational Leadership

Online students are engaged in two brief required residencies (roughly three and a half days each) at the Chicago campus-providing an opportunity for face-to-face interaction and networking with fellow students from around the globe who bring a wealth of diverse leadership experiences and perspectives. At the first residency, students meet with their cohorts and faculty members and engage in focused seminars. At the second residency, students participate in their competency exam.