**Most Common Visa Types at ISU**

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|  | **STUDENTS**  **The majority at ISU have the F-1 Student Visa**  **or the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa** | | **SCHOLARS**  **Many have the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa or the H-1B Visa** | |
|  | **F-1 Students** | **J-1 Students** | **J-1 Scholars** | **H-1B Scholars** |
| **Who They Are** | Nonimmigrants pursuing specific educational or professional objectives | Nonimmigrants pursuing degrees, or a prescribed course of study as non-degree seekers | Nonimmigrants who are researchers, professors, or similar experience in home countries | H-1Bs are temp workers in a “specialty occupation” who fill employment needs at ISU |
| **What They Do at ISU** | Majority are degree seeking; however, some engaged full-time at English Language Institute | At ISU, most are non-degree seekers and here for 1-2 semesters; however, can be degree seeking | Conduct research, observe, lecture, or collaborate in connection with a research project | Perform professional services, and work at ISU as "faculty" or professional teaching staff for long-term employment |
| **Enrolled; Earning Credits** | Yes (Full Time) | Yes (Full Time) | Generally, no, but may take a class if assists program at ISU | May pursue “incidental study.” |
| **Government Authority** | ISU designated by Dept of Home-land Security (DHS) to sponsor | ISU designated by Department of State (DOS) to sponsor | ISU designated by Department of State (DOS) to sponsor | Permission to hire from Dept. of Labor (DOL) and DHS |
| **What Admissions Does** | Admits, creates immigration doc needed to apply for visa overseas, sends pre-arrival info | Admits, sends pre-arrival info | N/A | Admits if taking classes |
| **What I-Studies Does** | Sends pre-arrival info; monitors students; manages SEVIS record; provides orientation and on-going advising; processes benefits of status | Creates immigration doc needed to apply for visa; sends pre-arrival info; monitors students; manages SEVIS record; on-going advising; processes benefits of status; works with sponsoring agencies and exchange partners | Leads host dept. and scholar through application; creates immigration doc needed to apply for visa; sends pre-arrival info; monitors scholars; manages SEVIS | Carries out immigration and Labor processing in collaboration with hiring ISU department, person being hired and Human Resources |
| **How Many at ISU** | About 350-400 per year *(+OPT?)* | About 60 per year | About 25 per year; mostly in CAS | About 20 new per year |
| **Can Bring Dependents** | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Length of Stay** | As long as needed if making good progress toward degree | Non-degree seeking up to 24 mos. though most stay 1-2 semesters. Degree seekers can stay as needed. | 1 day to 5 years depending on J-1 scholar category (Short-term, Researcher or Professor) | Up to 6 years |
| **Funding** | Students prove own funding | Partial funding through I-Studies tuition waiver | Can be hired and funded by ISU or not. Most fund themselves, or are sponsored by employer or government at home. | Salary from ISU employment |
| **Additional Details** | Approximately 50 F-1 students per year (plus dependents) remain “ours” immigration-wise for up to 3 years after graduation when they pursue an F-1 benefit called “Optional Practical Training” | Purpose of Exchange Visitor Program is to increase understanding between U.S. and other countries via educational/cultural exchange;  Required by DOS to have special health insurance | Purpose of Exchange Visitor Program is to share expertise and knowledge across cultures;  Required by DOS to have special health insurance;  Must have bachelor’s degree at minimum to qualify;  Cannot be tenure track here | Can be tenure track – work with department, HR, faculty member and off campus lawyer for Permanent Residency (green card) |

**Other Visa Types at ISU**

The following visa types are those seen used by visitors to ISU, but which are not sponsored by Illinois State University through any government agency or immigration sponsorship.

**J-1 Student**

**Intern:** This visa type was specially designed to provide a way for undergraduate students to do internships and gain practical work experience in the U.S.

**B-1, B-2:** Tourists whoare short-term, temporary visitors here **for business and professional purposes (B-1** Visitor Visa), or **pleasure and** **recreational purposes only (B-2** Visitor Visa), or both (B1/B2). (Some tourists don’t need visas to enter the U.S. because their country is part of the Visa Waiver Program.)

Tourist groups hosted by the International Studies Office include:

* **American Studies from Paderborn** -– undergrad students from Germany who participate in a month-long program to observe classes, experience university life, sightsee, go on field trips, and live with local families. I-Studies makes all of the arrangements and the students pay I-Studies to participate. They are not enrolled or earning credits at ISU.
* **MDI** (Management Development International) -– professionals from developing countries who attend seminars for 3.5 weeks on program development and management topics. International Studies arranges trips to local organizations, socio-cultural trips, transportation and hotel stays. Participants are not enrolled and do not earn ISU credit. They pay I-Studies to participate.

**TN:** Professionals under NAFTA (for Citizens of Canada and Mexico):Individuals in the U.S. who perform professional services for a sponsoring employer in a specific position for a fixed period of time, according to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). MDI trainers from Canada visit ISU with this visa type.

**A-1, A-2:** Individuals in the U.S. who are employees of foreign governments. MDI participants sometimes come with this visa. Sometimes international students come with this visa.

**G-1, G-2:** Individuals in the U.S. who are representing international organizations (like the United Nations or World Bank). MDI participants sometimes come with this visa. Sometimes international students come with this visa.

**L-1, L-2:** Intra-company transferee and dependents (like Japanese people working for Mitsubishi in Japan who are transferred here for a few years).

We have had L-2s studying for degrees and L-1s can take classes.

**F-2, J-2, H-4:** Dependents of F-1s, J-1s, and H-1Bs. OISP must process immigration documents for these individuals and offer immigration advising for them whether

or not they are enrolled at ISU.