



ARONSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.
IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS

TOP 10 THINGS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO KEEP IN MIND FROM DAY ONE!

- 10** **Keep copies of all immigration documents:** You will need them in the future for a variety of immigration processes, including changing and extending your immigration status, obtaining employment authorization, and applying for permanent residence.
- 9** **Don't assume anything:** Ask your university's international office questions about work authorization, international travel and limitations on your course load. That's what they're there for. An honest mistake could permanently hurt your ability to remain in the United States.
- 8** **Keep the U.S. Government informed:** Notify the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of your new address every time you move. Whether you are a temporary worker/visitor/student or permanent resident, you are required to report address changes by using Form AR-11. You can find the form, and fill it out on-line at <https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=coa>.
- 7** **Follow the rules:** Minor criminal charges- even those that don't lead to convictions- can considerably impact your immigration status and, in some instances, completely bar you from the future ability to work and live in the United States. In particular, any charges involving drugs will follow you forever.
- 6** **Think long term:** Develop relationships with staff at Career Services and network with potential employers throughout your educational program to increase job opportunities when you are done.
- 5** **Take advantage of CPT, OPT and on-campus employment to learn skills and add experience to your resume.** The most common H-1B applicants are those sponsored by the OPT and CPT employers.
- 4** **Travel within the United States to find your niche:** The United States is a large and diverse country with many different cultures. You will surely find a community that will offer the perfect combination of employment opportunities and social and cultural activities. Use the university resources including student conferences to travel for free.
- 3** **Take care of your credit:** Pay bills on time, never overdraw on your bank account and use credit cards wisely. In the United States, your credit is your greatest asset so protect it in the event that the U.S. becomes your new home.
- 2** **Communicate with other international students:** Most schools have an active organization designed to provide comfortable social opportunities for sharing information and experiences. This is a great way to stay informed of new trends in the laws and policies that may affect you.
- 1** **PLAN AHEAD:** The immigration process is lengthy, oftentimes uncertain and extremely complex. Keep your future immigration status in mind from Day One and plan accordingly. This will ensure that you are always fully authorized to work in your profession, to reside here without problems, to freely travel internationally for business or personal reasons and to become a Permanent Resident of the United States, if that is your wish.

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