

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I LOSE MY I-20?

Visit the Office of International Education as soon as possible.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I LOSE MY PASSPORT?

Contact your country's embassy or consulate in the U.S. You can also find passport information for most countries on the internet. Remember to keep a copy of your passport (personal data, signature page and visa page) in a safe place. Scan them and save them onto your computer.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY PASSPORT IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE?

Your passport must always be valid for six months into the future. If you travel and try to re-enter the USA with a passport that will expire in under six months, you may be denied entry to the USA. Contact your country's embassy or consulate in the U.S. They will be able to tell the procedures for renewing your passport.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY VISA IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE?

You may remain in the U.S. with an expired F-1 visa if your passport and I-20 are current. If you leave the U.S. with an expired visa and wish to re-enter, you will need to apply for a new visa. You may ONLY apply for new visas from outside the country. Generally speaking, students should apply for visas from their home countries. You should obtain a visa renewal letter from International Education before you leave the U.S.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY I-20 IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE AND I HAVEN'T YET COMPLETED MY DEGREE?

Check your I-20 'Program End Date' on the front page of your I-20. You may be eligible to apply to extend your I-20. Visit International Education for more information. Note that you must apply to extend your I-20 at least two weeks before your current I-20 expires. Be advised that before we are able to extend your I-20, you must provide proof that you are financially able to pay for a year of tuition/living expenses at MICA. Be prepared to provide bank statements.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY ADDRESS CHANGES?

The US Government expects you to report changes of your US address. You can do this by emailing International Education staff with details of your new address. You also should report your address change to MICA Enrollment Services by completing a Change of Address form at their office on the second floor of Bunting..

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY TUITION BILL?

MICA's Office of Student Accounts will be able to give you information about your tuition bill. They are located on the second floor of the Bunting Building. You may email them at [studentaccounts@mica.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@mica.edu) or call them at 410-225-2356.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH MY ROOMMATES?

You may wish to speak with your Resident Assistant (RA) or staff in MICA's Office of Residence Life. You can reach Residence Life at 410.225.2398 or [residencelife@mica.edu](mailto:residencelife@mica.edu). Don't hesitate to contact International Education or Counseling Services if you have further issues, too.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM SICK?

Please ask International Education staff for our handout 'Healthcare in the United States,' which supplies some in-depth information about many health-related FAQs. Do not hesitate to visit Student Health Services - Chase Brexton in the MICA Wellness Center. You can reach them by calling 410-225-4118 or emailing [healthservices@mica.edu](mailto:healthservices@mica.edu). Contact them for walk-in hours, or to make an appointment. If you experience a true emergency, you should visit a hospital emergency room or call 911.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM FEELING DEPRESSED? WHAT IF I AM HAVING DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TO U.S. CULTURE?

MICA's Counseling Center (in the MICA Wellness Center) has counselors who are available to speak with you about anything that concerns you, causes you stress, or in any other way affects your life in the U.S. If you think you might harm yourself, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

## WHAT IF I AM HAVING DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TO U.S. CULTURE?

Don't hesitate to speak with a member of International Education staff or Student Affairs staff regarding any concerns you have. We can help you understand both U.S. culture and any transition issues you may be experiencing.

## HOW DO I WORK IN AN OFF-CAMPUS JOB?

Most F-1 students are not eligible for off campus work until they speak with International Education staff. Off-campus employment must be related to your MICA major and must be authorized by International Education + Department of Homeland Security BEFORE you begin working. Many students are not eligible to work off-campus until they have completed two consecutive semesters at MICA.

## HOW DO I WORK IN AN ON-CAMPUS JOB?

F-1 students may work on-campus for up to 20 hours each week while classes are in session. Speak with MICA's Human Resources Office (Bunting, 3rd floor) about on-campus jobs.

## HOW DO I OBTAIN A TRANSCRIPT?

You may print unofficial copies of your transcript from the "Enrollment" link on your MICA portal. You may request an official transcript at the Enrollment Services office on the second floor of Bunting. It may take several days to obtain a transcript, so remember to allow a few days. A transcript is a list of all the MICA courses you have completed, and includes your grades and credits earned.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS?

Speak with the Financial Aid Office, located on the third floor of Bunting.