Social Security Number for International Students

Please do not share any personal information during this event.
Social Security Update on Services

Beginning April 7, local Social Security offices are offering:

• more in-person appointments and
• resumed in-person service without an appointment

As we expand in-person service, we strongly encourage you to continue to:

➢ go online;
➢ call us for help; or
➢ schedule appointments in advance
Know Before You Go

If you visit an office, please keep in mind:

• Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
• Complete COVID-19 self-assessment checklist before visiting the office
• Masks are required
• Hand sanitizer is available
• Office space will be limited
• Come alone unless you require help with your visit
• No appointment, expect long lines
• Busiest times are: Mondays, the morning after a Federal holiday, and the first week of the month
Scam Awareness - 3 Tips to Protect Yourself

• Understand the threats
• Exercise caution
• Secure your information

To report fraud, go to: oig.ssa.gov
Scam Awareness & Social Security

• We do contact citizens -
  o generally those who have ongoing business with Social Security - by telephone for customer-service purposes

• Social Security employees will never -
  o threaten you for information
  o state that you face potential arrest or other legal action if you fail to provide information

• If you receive a threatening call, the call is fraudulent -
  o don’t give out any information
  o you should just hang up
### Examples and Impact of Identity Theft

#### Examples of Misuse

- Opening credit cards
- Opening utility accounts
- Applying for a tax refund
- Getting a loan
- Applying for employment
- Getting medical care
- Illegal use of Social Security number

#### Impact on Victims

- Denial of credit/loans
- Denial of public benefits
- Denial of medical care
- Harassment by debt collectors
- Lawsuits
- Stress/anxiety/embarrassment
- Time/expenses spent on recovery steps
Your Social Security Number (SSN)

➢ Social Security Administration protects your SSN and keeps your records confidential.

➢ You should be careful about sharing your number, even when asked for it.

➢ Keep your card and other documents that show your SSN in a safe place.

➢ DO NOT routinely carry your card or other documents that display your number.
What To Do Right Away

• Step 1: Call the companies where you know fraud occurred.
• Step 2: Place a fraud alert and get your credit reports.
• Step 3: Report identity theft to the FTC (identitytheft.gov)

You may choose to file a report with your local police department.
IdentityTheft.gov

Here’s how it works:

**Explain what happened.**
They will ask questions about your situation. Tell them as much as you can.

**Get a recovery plan.**
They will use that info to create a personal recovery plan.

**Put your plan into action.**
If you create an account, they will walk you through each recovery step, update your plan as needed, track your progress, and pre-fill forms and letters for you.
Free Help from IdentityTheft.gov

- A personal recovery plan that walks you through each step
- An identity theft affidavit that you can review and update at any time
- Customized pre-filled letters to send credit bureaus, businesses and debt collectors
- Update your plan and track your progress
- Advice about what to do if you’re affected by specific data breaches
How Social Security Can Help

• Outreach and education
• Replacement or corrected Social Security Number (SSN) card
• Issue a new (second) SSN
• Verify SSA records
• Correct earnings record
• Hotline referrals
What SSA Cannot Do

- Correct your credit record
- File ID theft reports
- Act as an advocate
## Credit Bureaus – Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Equifax</th>
<th>Experian</th>
<th>TransUnion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>equifax.com</td>
<td>experian.com</td>
<td>transunion.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report fraud:</td>
<td>1-800-525-6285</td>
<td>1-888-397-3742</td>
<td>1-800-680-7289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order a credit report:</td>
<td>1-800-685-1111</td>
<td>1-888-EXPERIAN (1-888-397-3742)</td>
<td>1-800-916-8800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 740241</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA 30374-0241</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1017</td>
<td>Fraud Victim Assistance Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Allen, TX 75013-0949</td>
<td>P.O. Box 6790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fraud Resources

• Federal Trade Commission (FTC) → 1-877-438-4338

• Tax Issues, visit irs.gov/identity-theft-central or call 1-800-908-4490

• FTC.gov/idtheft for prevention tips and free resources

• DMV DL/ID Fraud Hotline → 1-866-658-5758

• Get your free credit reports at annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228
Visit our website at: ssa.gov
Additional Online Resources

ssa.gov

- Replacement Social Security Card
- Check Application or Appeal Status
- People Helping Others
- Contact Us
- Forms
- Publications
- Calculators
- Social Security Statement
- Direct Deposit
- Closings & Emergencies
- Fraud Prevention and Reporting
- Ticket to Work
- Budget, Finance, and Performance
- Explore the Benefits You May Be Due
- Get Affordable Internet Service
Revising Social Security Card online

Requirements for online replacement Social Security card:

- U.S. Citizen age 18 or older with a U.S. mailing address (this includes APO, FPO, and DPO addresses)
- Have a current driver’s license or state-issued identification card*
- Have a my Social Security, Login.gov, or ID.me account

*Name and Date of Birth must match Social Security records otherwise iSSNRC will not work.

*Not all states participate in iSSNRC, please check online to determine if your state participates.
Requesting an Original Social Security Number for Noncitizens
The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently shared helpful links to online resources. The flyers below include links to USCIS self-service tools and online services, which allow one to:

- track the status of an immigration application,
- check case processing times, and
- locate additional citizenship-related resources.

Terms

- COA - Class of Admission
- CPT - Curricular Practical Training
- DHS - Department of Homeland Security
- DOJ - Department of Justice
- DSO - Designated School Official
- EAD - Employment Authorization Document
- EBE - Enumeration Beyond Entry
- EOIR - Executive Office of Immigration Review
- LPR - Lawful Permanent Resident
- POE - Port of Entry
- SSN - Social Security Number
- SEVIS - Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
- USCIS - United States Citizen and Immigration Services
Common Documents*

- I-20: Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
- I-94: Arrival/Departure Record
- I-485: Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
- I-551: EAD (Lawful Permanent Resident – Green Card)
- I-765: Application for Employment Authorization
- I-766: EAD (Work Permit)
- I-797: Notice of Action

*Note: All documents must be originals. Photocopies will not be accepted.
Benefits without Social Security Number

Lawfully admitted noncitizens can receive benefits without a SSN

Noncitizens can:
- Conduct business at a bank
- Register for school
- Apply for educational tests
- Obtain private health insurance
- Apply for school lunch programs
- Apply for Subsidized housing
- Apply for a driver’s license
- Apply for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number
Requesting a Social Security Number without Work Authorization

• Only valid non-work reasons are:
  – Federal statute or regulation requires the alien provide a SSN to receive a particular benefit or service to which has otherwise established entitlement; or
  – State or local law requires the alien who is legally in the U.S. to provide a SSN to receive public assistance benefits to which has otherwise established entitlement and for which all other requirements have been met.

• Documents for non-work SSN are:
  – evidence of age, identity, and current immigration status; and
  – a letter from the appropriate government entity that explains the need for the SSN
SSA, DHS, and USCIS are parties under an agreement which USCIS provides SSA with information necessary to assign a Social Security number (SSN) to non-U.S. citizens who request a Social Security Number (SSN) and who:

- live in the United States, and
- need to obtain an original SSN or replacement card, and
- are applying for either an I-766 (EAD) or,
- are applying for an I-551 (LPR card or "Green Card").

Form I-765 is used for those applying for an EAD
Form I-485 is used for those applying as LPR or to adjust status

Applicants should receive your SSN card no later than 7 to 10 business days after you receive EAD or I-551 (Green card) from USCIS. The card is mailed to the address provided on the application.
Applying for Original Social Security Number

If you were not approved for EBE, you must apply for the original SSN in person.

If you have already been assigned a Social Security number based on immigration status and need a replacement card, you must provide all original documents.
Applying for a Social Security Number as a Noncitizen

When applying for a Social Security number all applicants must provide proof of:

- Age
- Identity
- Immigration Status
Evidence of Age

All applicants for an original SSN card (including a new SSN) must submit evidence to support the date of birth alleged. The evidence of age must be independently verified with the issuing agency or custodian of the record.

Primary Evidence:
• Foreign-born birth certificate

Alternative Evidence:
• Foreign passport
• U.S. immigration document or record (e.g., I-551, employment authorization document, or I-94)
Evidence of Identity

We must ensure that the applicant for the SSN is the person claims to be.

Evidence of Identity documents must:

- Be current and unexpired to establish the individual's continued existence.
- Show the name as it will be shown on the card.
- Be the highest priority document type available according to SSA standards
- Agree with other documents and with applicant’s allegations on the SS-5 (Social Security card application)
- Show biographical information in addition to the person’s name, e.g. date of birth, parent names, OR show a physical description (e.g. height and weight) or current picture of the applicant

Acceptable Evidence of Identity for foreign-born applicant:

- Foreign passport
- I-551 in combination with an unexpired foreign passport
- I-94 in combination with an unexpired foreign passport
- I-766

Note: In some cases, the alien may have a current lawful alien document but not have a foreign passport (e.g., a refugee). In these situations we will accept the immigration document alone.
Class of Admission F-1

F-1

– Nonimmigrant classification limited to foreign students pursuing a full course of study in DHS approved academic institutions and language training programs in the U.S..

In order to be assigned a Social Security number, F-1 students must provide:

– Evidence of nonimmigrant status I-94;
– Valid/non expired foreign passport
– first page of the form I-20; and
– employment status which must include:
  • DSO letter
  • Letter from the student’s employer
Requirements for Evidence of Employment Status for an F1 for General On-Campus Employment

A letter or statement from the DSO
The letter or statement must be on school letterhead. The letter must show all of the following:
• printed or typed, name, signature, and telephone number of the DSO;
• date the letter or statement is signed;
• the name of a single F1 student applying for an SSN;
• indication that the student is attending school;
• name of approved school attended;
• on-campus employer name and contact information; and
• nature of the on-campus employment.

NOTE: If the work is at an off-campus location, either the DSO or the employer must indicate that the employer is either educationally affiliated with the school or a contractually funded research project at the post-graduate level (e.g., working on scientific research for a private firm, “XYZ Scientific Corporation,” under contract to the school).
Letter or Statement from employer

An original letter or statement from the F1 student’s employer must be typed or written on employer’s (school or company) letterhead and show all the following:

• name of the F-1 student employee;
• description of the employment;
• anticipated or actual employment start date no more than 30 days in the future at the time of application for an SSN;
• number of hours the student is expected to work;
• employer identity number (EIN);
• employer contact information, including the telephone number and the name of the F1 student’s immediate supervisor;
• verification of the employment status (i.e. student has been hired);
• original signature with signatory’s title and date.

NOTE: Employment verification must come from another source other than the DSO such as the department or payroll official that issues the paycheck and is responsible for wage reporting.
Class of Admission J-1

J-1
– Nonimmigrant classification for exchange visitor admitted to the U.S. to take part in an Exchange Visitor program designated by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Cultural Affairs.

In order to be assigned a Social Security number, J-1 students must provide:
-- Evidence of nonimmigrant status I-94;
– Valid/non expired foreign passport;
– DS-2019 completed by the program sponsor; and
– Sponsor letter authorizing employment
The sponsor letter must:

• be written on the sponsoring organization's letterhead;
• show a recent date within the current program start and end dates shown on Item 3 of the DS-2019;
• show the name of the J-1 exchange visitor “Student”, “Student Intern”, or “International Visitor”;
• indicate the J-1 has been authorized to work. The sponsor letter does not need to show a description of the actual work being performed; and,
• include an original signature of the Responsible Officer for the exchange visitor program and his or her title.
Applying for a Social Security Number: Starting the Process

• Complete the form SS-5 Application for Social Security Card

• Provide Evidence of
  – Age
  – Identity
  – Immigration status

• Visit a Social Security office (office locator: https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp)

Requesting an original Social Security number requires an in-person interview.
Starting the Application Online

Original card:
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- have a U.S. mailing address includes APOs, DPOs, and FPOs;
- proof of age, identity, and citizenship or alien status of the individual;
- proof of identity for the proper applicant if applying on behalf of someone else;
- proof of mental and physical incapacity if applying for someone else age 18 and older; and
- proof of responsibility and relationship if applying on someone else’s behalf.

Replacement card:
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- have a U.S. mailing address includes APOs, DPOs, and FPOs;
- proof of identity for the number holder;
- proof of identity for the applicant and number holder if applicant is applying on behalf of someone else;
- proof of mental and physical incapacity if applying for someone else age 18 and older; and
- proof of responsibility and relationship if applying on someone else’s behalf;
- proof of name change event and new name (e.g., marriage certificate, divorce decree) for name change event.
Already Applied for a Social Security Number?  
What to Expect Next

• You will be provided a receipt showing the application is being processed.

• Once the documents are verified and approved, you will be assigned a Social Security number.

• The Social Security card will be mailed to the address you provided on your application.

• If the documents could not be verified and the application is disapproved, you receive a letter stating Social Security is unable to assign a Social Security number and provide the reason.
Not Qualified for a Social Security Number: Applying for a State Driver’s License

• Complete the SSA Form SS-5

• Attach a cover letter briefly stating that you do not meet the qualifications for a Social Security number but do need a notice from Social Security to provide the DMV

• Copy of passport photo and Visa pages

• Mail the above documents or visit your servicing Social Security office (Office Locator: https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp )

• Social Security will provide you with the appropriate notice for the DMV
Helpful Tips

• Complete the SS-5 paper application clearly and as thoroughly as possible

• Ensure the phone number listed is operational and can receive voicemail messages

• Provide a proper mailing address to send the Social Security card

• Bring all necessary original documents to the in-office interview
Resources

• Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

• Application for a Social Security Card: Form SS-5: https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf

• Original Card for a Noncitizen Adult: https://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/ss5doc.htm

• Social Security Information in Other Languages: https://www.ssa.gov/site/languages/en/

• Social Security Office Locator: https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp
Philadelphia Region

- Serving Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia

- Visit the Philadelphia Region Website: mwww.ba.ssa.gov/phila/index.htm

- Public Affair Specialist for the Philadelphia Region: mwww.ba.ssa.gov/phila/pub_aff.htm