

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

Spring 2019

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: [MESSIAH.EDU/INTERCULTURAL](http://MESSIAH.EDU/INTERCULTURAL)

MESSIAH COLLEGE

**Spring is here!**

Luiza Cliver, Asst. Director of International Student Programs  
[lcliver@messiah.edu](mailto:lcliver@messiah.edu)

Lydia Skulstad, SEVIS Compliance Advisor  
[lskulstad@messiah.edu](mailto:lskulstad@messiah.edu)

*In our Spring 2019 issue:*

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## Important Dates

- **April 6** - International Gala
- **April 10** - CPT Information Session - Library Athenaeum, 12:15 p.m.
- **April 24** - Mandatory F-1 Visa Session - Parmer Cinema, 5:15 p.m.
- **May 7** - Last day of spring classes
- **May 16** - Intercultural Office closed for retreat
- **May 17/18** - Commencement weekend
- **June 3** - First day summer grads can apply for OPT
- **Sept. 3** - First day of fall classes

## Other information

The Intercultural Office will be closed May 16 for an office retreat. If you need your I-20 signed for travel, please stop by before May 15.



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## What is a full course load?

# 12 credits!

F-1 students must be registered for at least 12 credits in the fall and j-term/spring semesters. It is never permitted, at any time over the semester, to drop below 12 credits unless the student has received official approval. However, there are only a few circumstances for which official approval can be given, such as a medical issue or final semester of study.

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## Summer CPT

If you are considering doing an off-campus internship in the U.S. this summer, then you must be approved in SEVIS for Curricular Practical Training (CPT).

Want to learn more about CPT?

Please come to our CPT information session on Wednesday, April 10, from 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. in the Library Athenaeum.

Also, check out our website:

<https://www.messiah.edu/intercultural>



### What is CPT?

- Employment with a curricular component
- Must be a course requirement for your program or internship class
- Part-time while classes are in session; can be full-time during breaks

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## Maintaining F-1 Status

*Each student is responsible for maintaining their F-1 visa status. Here are some of the regulations you are required to follow. Please don't hesitate to reach out to a DSO with further questions.*

- Report to the DSO for SEVIS registration during the first week of classes
- Register for at least 12 credits each semester (unless approved for a specific exception)
- Report a change of name or address to the DSO within 10 days
- Do not engage in criminal activity
- Keep a valid (unexpired) passport
- Discuss travel plans with DSO and get I-20 signed every 6 months
- Only engage in authorized work
- Do not work more than 20 hours/week while classes are in session
- Make normal academic progress towards degree completion