

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students are an essential and valuable part of the NMSU community. International students enjoy all the rights, privileges, and protections of domestic students. They are subject to all the same responsibilities and regulations as their fellow domestic students. However, some special policies apply only to international students. The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) ensures these requirements are met and works with international students to maintain their immigration status. Some students not seeking degrees, such as international exchange students, may work directly with the Office of Education Abroad.

Federal Regulations

An international student is any individual attending NMSU while present in the United States on a non-immigrant student visa (F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2, H-4, NATO visas, and possibly others such as students in temporary protected status).

Lawful permanent residents (green card holders) should present documentation of their status to University Student Records and go through the same admission process as U.S. citizens.

The United States Department of Homeland Security has established rules for students in non-immigrant status, such as those with F-1 or J-1 visa types. Some of these rules include the following:

1. For immigration purposes, each student must maintain full-time student status
 - a. Full-time status for fall and spring semesters is defined as 12 or more credits for undergraduates (only three online credits can apply to the full-time requirement).
 - b. Full-time status for summer is defined according to NMSU requirements. Exceptions possible for final semester. Consult ISSS officials for more details.
2. International students may not work off campus without authorization. On-campus employment may be authorized under certain conditions.
3. All international students must maintain an up-to-date record in the ISSS Office. This record must indicate the student's current living address, phone number, and email address.
4. Before admission, a prospective international student must demonstrate the following:
 5. Academic ability to succeed in the chosen course of study.
 6. Adequate financial support to complete the chosen course of study.
 7. English language proficiency as defined by the university.