



Vogel Law Firm Top Ten Tips for International Students

10. Keep Copies / Carry Evidence

- Keep copies of all your immigration documents.
 - You will need them in the future.
- Carry evidence of status
 - Copy of I-20
 - Passport
 - Employment Authorization Document

9. Dealing with Government

- When dealing with immigration officials be:
 - Well prepared (know what you are doing)
 - Truthful (lying is felony)
 - Pleasant (they have unlimited discretion)
 - Business-like (they are not your friend)
- Treat police the same way

8. Understand about Intent

- Understand the importance of immigrant vs. non-immigrant intent.
 - Those who seek to stay in the US permanently have immigrant intent.
 - Those who seek to visit have non-immigrant intent.
- One needs the right visa for their intent.
- Misrepresenting intent is a crime.
- Remember students are on a temporary visa and must have intent to depart the United States.

7. Update Address Changes

- Remember to keep USCIS apprised of your current address with Form AR-11.
- International Office will assist in doing this.

6. Recognize Limits Government Advice

- Be cautious of asking immigration officials for advice.
 - The answer may be incorrect if they do not know all the facts (or even if they do).
 - The answer generally cannot be relied upon.
 - The question could bring a problem to attention of authorities.

5. Understand about Travel

- Know the potential consequences of travel outside of the US.
 - If your F-1 visa has expired or is close to expiring, you may need to renew it in your home country before re-entering the US.
 - Travel can lead to a bar on re-entry if there has been unlawful presence.
- Other consequences at other stages of immigration process.

4. Understand About Arrests

- Know the potential consequences of an arrest or conviction.
 - It can lead to deportation.
 - It can prevent re-entry after travel outside US.
 - It must be explained at every step of immigration process.
 - It can prevent adjustment of status.
 - It can prevent naturalization.

3. Understand about Employment

- Know the consequences of unauthorized employment:
 - Will put you out of status.
 - Will result in denial of employment-based visas.
 - It might be forgiven in immediate relative petition absent travel.
 - It could result in 3 or 10 year bar on immigration after travel outside US.
 - A false statement on an I-9 form is a serious crime.
 - False claim of US Citizenship is lifetime bar on benefits

2. Know When to Seek Advice

- Get an immigration attorney if arrested:
 - Criminal defense counsel generally do not understand the immigration issues.
- Consult immigration attorney before traveling if you get engaged to U.S. Citizen.
- Recognize that immigration law is complex and tied to your exact situation.

1. Have Fun, Wisely!

- International study is a rare opportunity.
- Have fun, but not as much fun as your American friends.
- They can afford to occasionally use bad judgment without serious consequences.
- You cannot, without risking this and future travel opportunities.