



Immigration Updates



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DHS Adds 22 Fields to STEM Designated Degree Program List

On January 21st, 2022, DHS announced that it is adding 22 degree fields to the OPT STEM-designated CIP Code field list. This list controls which F-1 students are eligible to apply for a 24-month extension of their Optional Practical Training (OPT). You may find additional information, including the 22 new fields, [HERE](#).

USCIS Guidance on Expedited EADs for Healthcare Workers

Effective December 28th, 2021, if you are a healthcare worker who has a pending Employment Authorization Document (EAD) renewal application (Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization) and your EAD expires in 30 days or less or has already expired, you can request expedited processing of your EAD application.

To determine whether you are a qualifying healthcare worker, see this [DHS advisory memorandum \("Healthcare / Public Health" section, pages 7-9\)](#). You should be prepared to provide evidence of your profession or current employment as a healthcare worker. If the evidence you provide is not sufficient, we may not accommodate your request for expedited processing of your Form I-765. Expedited processing means only that USCIS will process the application faster.

To request expedited processing, call the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833).

Training Video for J-1 Scholar Program Basic Information



Is your department considering sponsoring a foreign national candidate a J-1 Research/ Short-term Scholar visa? Watch this [10-min video](#) to get more information about this visa type as well as the sponsorship process.

Assuming TPL role for J-1 Alien Physicians (Residents/Fellows)

UAMS Immigration Services has assumed the full Training Program Liaison (TPL) responsibilities for all residents and fellows on J-1 visa status starting 2022. As the TPL, we work closely with ECFMG to facilitate the J-1 program in UAMS. Our responsibilities include, but not limited to, initiating new J-1 visa sponsorship, requesting J-1 visa status extension, and reporting serious incidents involving the J-1 residents and fellows. If you have questions about the J-1 Alien Physician Program, please contact us at AskImmigration@uams.edu.

Change of Address Reminder

Have you moved recently? Be sure to update your new address in both USCIS and UAMS databases.

USCIS: Fill out the [AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card](#).

UAMS: Login to [Employee Self Service \(ESS\)](#) ⇒ Personal Information ⇒ Personal Profile.

According to U.S. federal regulation 8 C.F.R. 265.1, all changes of address should be reported to USCIS within 10 days after moving. By updating the address in UAMS system, it can ensure that you receive important benefit and tax documentation from Office of Human Resources.

Tax Return Basics

It's tax season! We've gathered some basic terms and information to help you understand the tax return process. *Please note: The Immigration Services Office is not trained to assist you in preparing your tax return forms. Visit a local VITA Tax Service Site for assistance. See the resources below for more information.*



Important Dates

The "tax year" runs from January 1st to December 31st.
The tax return filing deadline is **April 18th, 2022**.

Before beginning filing your tax return, you should determine if you were a Resident Alien or Non-resident Alien for tax purposes in 2021.

Resident Alien for tax purposes

All U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, and individuals on a nonimmigrant visa status who have met the **Substantial Presence Test**. Typically, if you have been on an H-1B visa for the entire tax year, you are considered a resident alien for tax purposes. Resident aliens can E-file their tax returns, use the same tax return forms and generally claim the same exemptions, deductions, and tax credits as U.S. citizens.

Non-resident Alien for tax purposes

Nonimmigrants who have not yet met the Substantial Presence Test or the Green Card Test. There are special tax rules for F and J status individuals. Nonresident aliens must use different tax return forms and are limited on the exemptions, deductions, and credits they can claim.

You may email ASKImmigration@uams.edu if you are unsure whether you were a Resident Alien or Non-Resident Alien for tax purposes in 2021.

Important Documents

Form W-2: Wage & Tax Statement

An employer issues Form W-2 to report how much was earned and how much tax was withheld for Federal and State income taxes.

Form 1042-S: Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject To Withholding

If you were eligible for and took advantage of tax treaty benefits during 2021, you should receive a 1042-S from UAMS around March 2022.

Form 8233: Exemption From Withholding on Compensation

If you wish to take advantage of a tax treaty benefit, you must sign this form at the beginning of each tax year. UAMS Immigration Services would have given you a copy of this form if you took advantage of the tax treaty benefit in 2021.

More Information and Tax Return Filing Assistance

- [IRS website for international taxpayers](#)
- [Arkansas State Tax Return website](#)
- [Receive FREE tax assistance at a local VITA Tax Service Site](#)

Recommended Tax Preparation Services Company

Sprintax is a company providing online US tax preparation solution for International students and scholars. If you are interested in using their services to help you file the tax return, please click [here](#) for more detailed information.

SPECIAL NOTE:

All F-1s and J-1s (including F-2s and J-2s) who were present in the U.S. DURING 2021 regardless of whether or not they worked or earned income should file Form 8843. You can download the form and instructions [here](#).



Travel

UAMS Immigration Services advises that foreign national employees do not travel internationally, especially if you must apply for a visa stamp at a U.S. embassy or consulate, except in emergency situations. U.S. Embassies worldwide are currently short-staffed, have very long wait times and processing times for visa applications, and have been frequently issuing administrative processing decisions recently. If you do decide to travel internationally, you should closely monitor any travel warnings or restrictions up until your travel date to determine if there are any additional rules which may apply to you during your trip abroad. For more information about travelling during

the pandemic, please review the travel guidelines from US Department of State website.

Foreign national employees should refer to the UAMS Travel Guidelines for any guidelines that apply to them, and continue to follow the updates released by UAMS. They should also consult with their departments to see if there are any other procedures to go through upon their arrival after an international trip.

Notify Immigration Services of Changes to Foreign Nationals' Position

Details

The Immigration Services Office should be updated of any changes to a foreign national employee's position, including promotions, salary change, transfers to a different position, or changes from full-time to part-time, etc. Depending on the employee's immigration status, these changes could have a significant impact on their status if they are not reported correctly. If any of these changes occurs, please contact us at AskImmigration@uams.edu with the employee's full name, SAP number, and details of the change.

Driver's License Renewal with Pending Extension Petition

If you are on H-1B or H-4 status and need to renew your Driver's license or State ID while your extension petition is pending, we recommend you to visit the **Office of Driver's Services** at the Ragland Building, 1900 W. 7th Street, **1st floor** to submit your application. We do not recommend applying at any other license office in Little Rock.

When you apply, you must have these documents with you:

- Passport
- U.S. visa stamp (does not need to be unexpired)
- Most recent I-94 entry record
- I-797C receipt notice of your H-1B or H-4 extension

If the representative you meet with tells you they cannot issue you a driver's license that day, request the following:

- Ask for your SAVE Case Verification number, and write it down.
- Request that they "Initiate Additional Verification" in SAVE.
- Ask if the SAVE system says "pending petition". If the SAVE system shows "pending petition" and the representative tells you that they can't renew your DL, please go to the state employee help desk at the same floor or call them at 501-683-7059 asking for help.

Check the status of your SAVE case online at <https://www.uscis.gov/save/casecheck>, using your SAVE Case Verification Number. This site will only tell you when SAVE has issued a final decision on your application. It will not tell you what that decision is. Once the SAVE Case Check search shows a black checkmark in "Case Status," and says "Case Returned to Agency," you must follow up with the license office where you applied to learn the final SAVE decision.

If you have any issues renewing your driver's license by following these steps, please contact our office at AskImmigration@uams.edu.

Virtual Office Hour



Sign up for our virtual office hour if you have immigration-related inquiries, such as when to initiate your H-1B extension petition, what to do if your passport is expiring, or how to start a green card process. All conversations are private. Sign-up is available all year round at this [link](#).

The upcoming sessions are **March 29th** and **April 12th**. Sign up NOW!



Upcoming Holidays

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Easter

Monday, May 30, 2022 (UAMS Holiday)

Memorial Day



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[Immigration Services Website](#)