



Social Security Card Application:

- A. Must report to school first and be in the country for at least 10 days prior to applying for a Social Security card. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov for more details.
1. There is no charge to apply for and receive a Social Security number
 2. There are several different types of cards issued. Typically International students will receive a card that shows your name and number with a note stating ***“Valid for work only with DHS authorization”***. These are temporary cards issued to people lawfully admitted to the US that have authorization from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work.
 3. Find the nearest location: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp> or you can call toll free 1-800-772-1213.
 4. If you need an interpreter one can be provided via phone or in person if you have a scheduled appointment at the local Social Security office.
<http://www.ssa.gov/multilanguage/langlist1.htm>
 5. To be eligible for a Social Security number you must be in valid F-1 status and show proof of employment.
 - a. You do not need a social security number to apply for school or attend school or to apply for a driver’s license
- B. [Process](#) overview
1. [Complete Application](#), form SS-5
 2. Present application at Social Security Office with following:
 - a. Work-authorized immigration status
 - i. Immigration status can be verified with a copy of your most recent I-94 and a current I-20
 - ii. Work eligibility will be verified as follows:
 - a) On campus work – letter from DSO that identifies you, confirms your school status, confirms your employer and the type of work being done, start date of employment, hours being worked, signed/dated by supervisor (including telephone number).
 - b) Of campus work (CPT) – must provide a current I-20 with page 2 completed with employment/employer information and signed by your DSO authorizing employment.
 - c) Off campus work (OPT) – must present your form I-766 or your work permit (EAD) card along with your current I-20 signed by your DSO on page 3 authorizing employment.
 - d) SSA can’t process your application if your on campus or CPT work begins more than 30 days from your application date



- b. Age
 - i. Can be a foreign birth certificate if you have it or can produce it within 10 business days. If you can't they will consider other documents like your current unexpired passport
 - c. Identity
 - i. Unexpired foreign passport with form I-551, I766 or I-94 (copy of Arrival/Departure record, <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions>)
 - ii. All documents must be originals or copies certified by the issuing agency
3. [International student guide](#) – SSA website PDF guide
4. Processing
- a. You will be issued a receipt when you submit your application. Once all documents are verified with DHS the Social Security Administration office will issue you a Social Security number.
 - b. Your card will be mailed to you, typically within 10 business days from receipt date.
 - c. May I start working without it? *Check with your employer first.*
 - i. Per the Social Security Administration – employees may work while the Social Security application is being processed.
 - a) Be prepared to show your receipt that you have submitted your application, it's dated, or a letter from the SSA that shows you have submitted your application.
 - b) You may be asked to provide some additional personal information to your employer (like father's full name, mother's full maiden name, date of birth, place of birth, your full name and address).
 - c) Ensure you provide your employer your number and exact name printed on the card as soon as you receive it.

Please contact your DSO/Academic Advisor for questions or assistance with completing your application.

Supporting Documents:

Social Security Application

SSN for international students

Letter to support SS application