ABOUT US
The mission of the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) is to provide services and programs for the international community at The Cooper Union. This support includes advisement on immigration, visa matters, work authorization, orientation, cultural adjustment, and general resources. ISSO supports Cooper’s overall internationalization and helps facilitate the integration and assimilation of international students into the Cooper community.

QUESTIONS
What is an International Student?
Any student who is not a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the United States is considered an international student.

What should I do to get a student (F-1) visa?
Once you are formally admitted to The Cooper Union, you must complete your I-20 application form and submit your U.S. government-required financial documents to the ISSO. If all the required documents are accurate, the ISSO will email your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 Form) and instructions on how to obtain a student visa within 2–3 weeks. If you have specific questions about student visas, you can contact Cooper’s Designated School Official (DSO) at international@cooper.edu.

VISA BASICS
• If coming to the U.S. on a nonimmigrant status besides F-1, please contact ISSO to discuss your plans.
• If you are currently in the U.S. as an F-1 student at another institution, you will need to take the required steps to transfer your SEVIS record to The Cooper Union and get a new I-20 with the details of your program at Cooper. After being admitted and making your deposit, ISSO will reach out to you with the needed next steps.
• If you are currently at Cooper as an F-1 international student and moving to a different education level (e.g. from undergraduate to graduate), changing majors, need an extension or leave of absence, you’ll need to consult with ISSO prior to making that change.
• If you are currently in the U.S. in a nonimmigrant status other than F-1, you will need to confirm that you can study while maintaining your immigration status.
OUR SERVICES

• I-94 Updates
• SEVIS Transfer In & Out
• Maintaining Status & Change of Status
• CPT/OPT/STEM Workshops & Applications
• H1B & O-1 Workshops
• International Student Tax Workshops
• On Campus Employment & Onboarding
• I-20 Extension, Change of Level or Major
• I-20 Leave of Absence
• Dependent Information and Updates
• Social Security
• Legal ID/License
• Travel Signatures
• U.S. Visa Renewal Questions
• International Student Events & Programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION

• Visit our website
• Take a Tour
• Chat with a student ambassador
• Check out our viewbook

CONTACT

HALA ALKASM
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OFFICE | PSDO
international@cooper.edu

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY–FRIDAY | 9 AM–5 PM EST
for virtual appointments: www.calendly.com/cooperisso