ABOUT US

Founded in 2020, The Hidden Dream raises awareness of the countless struggles faced by visa immigrants, shares resources, and creates a community to uplift those affected by the broken U.S. immigration system.

For more information, visit https://thehiddendream.org/ and our Instagram page @_thehiddendream_. For any questions, email Dreamershidden@gmail.com.
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Dependent Visas
A dependent visa allows a family member (spouse, children, parents) to accompany a primary immigrant or nonimmigrant visa holder.

- There are various types of dependent visas including E2, F2, H4, J2, and L2

- **E2 Dependent Visas are given to those dependent on those with an E2 visa**
  - E2 - An investment-based nonimmigrant visa for entrepreneurs who want to come to the US to open or operate a business
  - Eligible for E2
    - Spouse of E2 visa
    - Children under the age of 21
  - Restrictions on E2
    - Spouse can apply to USCIS for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
    - Children are not allowed to work

- **F2 Visas are given to those dependent on an F1 visa holder**
  - F1 - Visa for those who desire to study in the US
  - Eligible for F2
    - Immediate family members can apply for an F2 visa
  - Restrictions on F2
    - Cannot work in the USA; no Social Security Number (SSN) available
    - Cannot enroll in a Bachelor’s/Master’s degree program; only allowed to complete elementary to high school education

- **H4 Visas are given to those dependent on an H1B visa holder**
  - H1B - Nonimmigrant visa to work in a specialty occupation. Requires a higher education degree or its equivalent.
  - Eligible for H4
    - Spouse of H1B visa holder
    - Child under the age of 21
  - Restrictions on H4
    - H4 children are not allowed to work; not eligible to apply for an EAD

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DEPENDENT VISAS

- **J2 Visas are given to those dependent on a J1 visa holder**
  - **J1** - Nonimmigrant visa for those who are approved to participate in work-and-study based exchanger visitor programs
  - Eligible for J2
    - Spouse of J1 visa
    - Children under the age of 21
  - Restrictions on J2
    - Cannot apply for SSN; cannot work
    - Can apply to USCIS for an EAD

- **L2 visas are given to those that are dependent on an L1 visa holder**
  - **L1** - To work at a branch, parent, affiliate, or subsidiary of the current employer in a managerial or executive capacity, or in a position requiring specialized knowledge. Individuals must have been employed by the same employer abroad continuously for 1 year within the three preceding years.
  - Eligible for L2
    - Spouse of L1 visa
    - Child under the age of 21
  - Restrictions on L2
    - L2 children are not allowed to work
    - Not eligible to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
  - L2 to green card
    - May be included in the process for adjustment of status (also known as applying for a Green Card)
    - L2 visa holders have to make sure their visa is valid when applying for a Green Card to prevent the necessity for advance parole.

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The USCIS states that a child is defined as:  
- Unmarried person under the age of 21

“Aging out”
- “If someone applies for a green card as a child (dependent on parents) but turns 21 before being approved for Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status, they are not considered a child for immigration purposes” (USCIS).
- This means the parent (primary applicant) can no longer file for their child as a dependent on their LPR application.

Due to the long wait times for green cards many kids of visa immigrants are now aging out, despite having grown up in the USA for years.

They are forced to leave the country at the age of 21 if they do not get their EAD or green card by that time.

Because they don’t qualify for most immigrant visas, aged out individuals often take the long route of obtaining an F-1 visa and then switching to a worker visa to pursue LPR status.

There is one particular bill (CSPA) that could fix this issue and help those in this situation.

CSPA
- “This bill provides a method for calculating a person’s age to see if they meet the definition of a child for immigration purposes. The calculated age is the child’s CSPA age” (USCIS).
- CSPA allows some people to remain classified as children beyond their 21st birthday.
  - Although you can be considered a child over the age of 21, you have to remain unmarried to qualify for this bill.
  - Even if you have filed visa petitions multiple times, your age will only be frozen up to when the most recent visa petition was filed.
  - Applicant must act within 1 year of visa availability.

CSPA Eligibility
- Family-sponsored preference principal applicants and derivative applicants
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners and derivative applicants
- Employment-based preference derivative applicants
- Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) derivative applicants
- Derivative refugees or asylees

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Those who are applying for a green card in one of the categories are eligible for CSPA consideration if they qualify for Form I-485 Application for Permanent Residence or any of the following after Aug 6, 2002:

- Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative
- Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant
- Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker
- Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal
- Form I-590, Registration for Classification as a Refugee
- Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

CSPA Age (family or EB applicants) = Age at time of visa availability - pending time

- Age at time of visa availability is the age an immigrant visa becomes available (final action date becomes current or when you can file for I-485)
- Pending time is the amount of time the petition with which the applicant will be filing for I-485 was pending (the amount of time I-130, I-360, I-140, I-589, I-590, or I-730 was pending)
- General Tips
  - If the dependent visa permits enrollment in school, you can apply to college without changing to a F-1 student visa.
  - If attending an in-state school, contact your school’s admissions office and ask if you are allowed to pay in-state tuition fees even if you are a dependent visa holder.
    - Check you meet your state’s requirements to be considered a resident. If yes, advocate that you are a state resident and state the number of years you have lived in the state.
  - Some schools may regard you as an international student as opposed to an in-state student.
  - Don’t shy away from explaining your exact situation to any advisor you talk to.
  - For most in-state schools, you will go through the regular application process.
The different types of aid that colleges offer

- **Grant** - A form of financial aid that does not need to be repaid
- **Scholarship** - “Free-money” that is based on academic merit, talent, or a particular area of study
- **Need-based** - The college does factor a student’s financial status into admissions decisions
- **Need-blind** - The college does not factor a student’s financial status into admissions decisions
- **Full Need Met** - Financial aid offer will cover the difference between the cost of attendance and a student’s expected family contribution.

**Colleges That Have the Most International Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Percentage of International Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The New School</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Rochester</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Institute of Technology</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnegie Mellon University</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandeis University</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Stritch University</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California - San Diego</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews University</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Colleges That Give The Most Aid to International Students 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Average aid awarded to international students during 2019-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>$71,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skidmore College</td>
<td>$70,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amherst College</td>
<td>$69,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth College</td>
<td>$68,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams College</td>
<td>$68,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke University</td>
<td>$68,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesleyan University</td>
<td>$67,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swarthmore College</td>
<td>$67,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>$66,805</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Need Blind VS Full-Need Met (No Loans)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amherst College</td>
<td>Full-Need Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston College</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown University</td>
<td>Full-Need Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DePaul University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fordham University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>Full-Need Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</td>
<td>Full-Need Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton University</td>
<td>Full-Need Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Louis University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>Full-Need Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulane University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Miami</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>Need Blind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Factors that international students or students on a visa should consider when choosing a college:

- **Cost/financial aid**
  - Does the college offer need-based aid?
    - CSS profiles can count against a student if they ever see the need to switch to an F1 visa.
    - This can count against a student because schools see that one demonstrates a need for money; however, when one switches to an F1 visa they must show financial evidence that they can cover all expenses needed for a year
  - Do international students qualify for merit scholarships?
    - If one is an above average student when compared to the kinds of students at the college then they will be more likely to receive a higher amount in merit scholarships.

- **Course of study + type of school**
  - Does the college have a strong program that matches the student’s interests?

- **Diversity**

- **Student life**

- **Support for international students**
  - Does the university have an international scholar’s office that is easily accessible to students?
    - Visit their website or call them.

- **Location**
  - Is the campus located in a suburban or urban area?

- **Undergraduate student population**
  - Is the undergraduate population small or large?

- **Does the school have a graduate program?**
  - This can be advantageous if one plans on or needs to pursue a graduate degree to maintain F-1 status.
    - Admissions within the same university is often easier.

**Are you eligible for financial aid from the state?**

- There are currently six states that give financial aid to visa immigrants:
  - California
  - Minnesota
  - New Mexico
  - New York
  - Texas
  - Washington

- There’s typically a state financial aid application to fill out similar to FAFSA (federal aid application)
  - One will have to fill this out every year. Pay attention to when the application open up and when it is due.

- Visa immigrants are not eligible for any federal aid (grants, work-study) but can apply for state aid if they meet eligibility for state resident
  - One can often prove residence by a registrar signed residency affidavit

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In order to continue staying in the US, dependent visa children must switch to another visa before they turn 21.

- The most common option is to switch to a F-1 visa.

1. Obtain acceptance from a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) certified university

2. Obtain form I-20 from the university
   a. I-20 form - This form is also referred to as the “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.”
      i. One needs to show evidence of financial support (bank statements, grants, scholarships) for the estimated cost to study and live in the US for 1 year determined by your university.
         1. Check the university’s international advising’s website for an estimate.
   b. Once one receives their I-20, they must pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee.
      i. The following documents in order to pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee:
         1. Name, address, birthdate and email address
         2. Country of birth and country of citizenship
         3. School code (listed on I-20 form)
         4. SEVIS Identification Number (listed on I-20 form)

3. Go through one of the two ways to switch to an F-1 visa
   a. **Exiting and Re-entering the US**
      i. Depart the US and then apply for a F-1 visa at a US embassy or consulate abroad (usually in one’s country of origin).
      ii. If the F-1 visa application is approved and the F-1 is issued, one can use the I-20 form and F-1 visa to re-enter the US
   b. **Apply to USCIS for a Change of Status while remaining in the US. Here are the necessary documents:**
      i. One page cover letter requesting the change of status from one’s current status to F-1
         1. Provide a checklist of the documents included in the application

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15 “Change of Status to F-1.” Change of Status to F-1 | International Center, internationalcenter.umich.edu/change-status-to-f1.

16 “Students and the Form I-20: Study in the States.” Students and the Form I-20 | Study in the States, studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/students-and-the-form-i-20#:~:text=Name%2C%20address%2C%20date%2C%20of%20birth,ont%20the%20Form%20I-20D20.
ii. Completed Form I-539 Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status
   1. Include the application fee
iii. Evidence of financial support
    1. i.e. - Bank statement, grants, scholarships, etc.
iv. Copy of the acceptance letter from the University
v. Copy of I-20
    1. Make a copy of the original I-20 form and sign it
vi. Copy of SEVIS fee payment receipt
vii. Copies of the immigration documents that show proof of one’s lawful non-immigrant status
    1. i.e. - I-797, I-94, valid passport, visa stamp, EAD card, etc.

- It is illegal for one to remain in the US while their change of status application is pending
  - Doing so can result in request for evidence (RFE) asking for justification for visa overstay
  - This RFE could potentially lead to rejection of one’s application
- **B2 Visa** - A nonimmigrant visa issued to those who are temporarily visiting the US for medical treatment, tourism, or pleasure
  - Employment and full-time education are prohibited
  - The B2 visa holder must switch to a F-1 or M-1 visa if they wish to enroll as a full-time student
  - Switching to a B2 visa may be a way to stay in the US if one becomes out of status while their F-1 application is pending

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17 “Permissible Activities While on B2 Status.” Myattorneyusa, myattorneyusa.com/permissible-activities-while-on-b2-status.
● One must pass all their classes
● Maintain full-time enrollment every fall and spring semester 18
  ○ Typically, 12 credit hours for undergraduate and 9 credit hours for graduate 19
  ○ Reduced course load is permitted under certain circumstances if one’s DSO authorizes (e.g. language difficulty, illness, last term)
  ○ The 12/9 credit hours to meet full-time requirements should be applied towards one’s program. Courses that do not apply to one’s degree program must be taken past the 12/9 credit hours.
  ○ Only 3 credit hours of online course can be applied to the 12/9 full time requirement (check with DSO for exam credit hours)
    ■ Note: this has been an exception currently due to the pandemic. Currently, only students that started a program after March 9, 2020 have to have at least one class with an in-person component (in-person, hybrid)
      ● Students in schools that do not offer classes with an in-person component have to transfer or can continue education remotely in the home country.
    ○ Cannot take the full-time requirements in an 8-week semester
    ○ Less than full time enrollment is permitted when it is last semester before graduation, but all the courses have to be face-to-face
● Summers are optional and can be used as vacation time if it is not one’s first semester in the academic program 20
  ○ Students can take as many or few courses as they wish during vacation
  ○ Students must intend to register for classes in the term following the vacation
● Do not work unless authorized (check “Working on F-1” for more info)
  ○ Typically, on-campus jobs employed by university are okay without work authorization
  ○ Need special work authorization for any off-campus work done through CPT/OPT
● Report every change of local address to the DSO as soon as possible
● Complete academic program before I-20 expires or apply for an extension before expiration 21

18 “Maintaining Status: Study in the States.” Maintaining Status | Study in the States, studyinthesates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status.
19 “Full Course of Study: Study in the States.” Full Course of Study | Study in the States, studyinthesates.dhs.gov/students/study/full-course-of-study.
20 “Maintaining Status: Study in the States.” Maintaining Status | Study in the States, studyinthesates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status.
21 “International Center.” UT Dallas, utdallas.edu/ic/rosso/f1-maintain/.
MAINTAINING F-1

● Possess a valid, unexpired passport, I-20, I-94
  ○ A valid F-1 visa is not required
  ○ I-20 needs to be updated when 22:
    ■ Official change of name
    ■ Change in finance portion of I-20
      ● Need proof of funds
    ■ Change of level
      ● Need proof of funds
    ■ Change of major
    ■ Program extension
      ● Need proof of funds
    ■ Adding dependents
      ● Need proof of funds
  ● Tax compliance: if one received income through on-campus jobs, taxable scholarships, housing stipends or awards, one must follow the Foreign National Information System (FNIS) tax compliance process of their university 23
  ● Most universities will require students to maintain an approved health insurance and may automatically enroll a student in health insurance
    ○ One must check waiver application dates if they wish to have your own insurance
  ● Completion of all requirements of one’s degree program signifies the program completion for immigration purposes, not the estimate program completion on one’s I-20 24
    ○ Delaying study past degree requirements have been met until the date on one’s I-20 can be viewed as a violation
    ○ This is risky even if it goes unnoticed for now. When applying for EB visas or permanent residence, past I-20’s and transcripts will be examined and findings of violations will cause complications.
  ● Traveling: documents needed at re-entry 25
    ○ Valid passport
    ■ Passport should be valid for at least the next 6 months
      ○ Valid visa
      ○ Valid I-20
      ○ Valid OPT EAD and proof of employment (only students currently on OPT)
  ● Upon completion of one’s degree program, a 60-day grace period is given to either
    ○ Depart the US
    ○ Enroll in another academic program of same level of higher level
    ○ Apply for OPT
    ○ Apply to change one’s nonimmigrant status

22 “International Center.” UT Dallas, utdallas.edu/ic/isso/i20-maintain/.
24 “International Center.” UT Dallas, utdallas.edu/ic/isso/graduation/.
25 “Traveling as an International Student: Study in the States.” Traveling as an International Student | Study in the States, studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/traveling-as-an-international-student.
F-1 visa holders can work while studying in the US but there are some restrictions

- Students can have on-campus jobs
  - I.e. - working in the library, cafeteria, etc.
  - The job must be directly related to one’s university (one’s university should be the employer)
  - EAD is not necessary
  - SSN is necessary

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)**
- This program allows students to temporarily work for up to 12 months in a job that relates to their major of study
- Students are eligible for OPT after completing their first year of studies
- OPT can be completed before or after completing the degree
- Students can only work for a total of 12 months

**Optional Practical Training (OPT) and STEM Degrees**
- STEM degrees - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
- Students who graduate with a STEM degree can apply for a 24-month extension of their post-graduation OPT employment

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**
- This program allows to temporarily gain practical experience directly related to their major through employment
- This experience can be paid, unpaid, or cooperative (co-op) education
- This must be part of an established curriculum
- This must be completed before graduating
- CPT can be part-time or full-time
  - Part-time: less than 20 hours/week
  - Full-time: more than 20 hours/week
- Students who work full-time for 12 months in CPT will lose their eligibility for OPT

**The differences between OPT and CPT**
- There is a difference in the time period in which one is eligible for OPT and CPT
  - OPT can be completed before or after graduation
  - CPT must be completed before graduation
- There is a difference in how the program relates to one’s major
  - CPT employment is part of one’s major curriculum
    - The work can be a paid or unpaid internship, practicum, or cooperative education program
    - CPT must be required by one’s major
    - If it is not required by one’s major, then they must receive course credit
    - Only specific employers participate in CPT

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OPT allows work
- It is not employer specific, and students do not need to earn course credit

Eligibility for CPT employment
- Enrolled as a full-time student for 1 year on valid F-1 status
- This does not apply to graduate students whose program requires immediate CPT
- The CPT employment must be crucial to one’s degree or it must be a requirement for a course that one will receive academic credit for
- A job offer must have been received prior to submitting OPT authorization request
- The job offer must directly relate to one’s major or field of study

Eligibility for OPT employment
- Enrolled as a full-time student for 1 year on a valid F-1 status in a SEVP-certified school
- The student cannot be studying English as a Second Language
- The possible employment must relate to the student’s major or field of study
- The student cannot have been authorized for 12 months or more of full-time CPT employment

Applying for CPT employment
- Contact the student advisor to learn about the CPT programs offered at the university
  - Some programs may require one to take CPT courses in order to become an eligible candidate
- An official job offer letter must be obtained from one’s employer
  - The letter must include specific information which the university’s International Scholar Office can tell the student about
- Apply for the CPT program associated with the university
  - It can take a couple of weeks for authorization to be processed
  - All required documented should be ready before starting this process
- One will be notified of their application’s approval through a document
  - This document will state what the CPT’s start and end dates are
- One must contact the employer about next steps and ensure that all requested documentation is sent
- The CPT program can be started on the date listed in the approving document

Applying for OPT employment
- The Designated School Official at one’s university must make a recommendation for the OPT in their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record
  - One’s I-20 must be endorsed and notations must be made in their SEVIS record

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Complete and file the I-765 Form with USCIS
- Additional documentation such as a fee, financial information, proof of F-1 status, proof of identity, and details about one’s degree will be required
- One’s eligibility category determines the address they file to
- If the application is approved, one will receive your Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
  - One can only begin working after they receive this

Obtaining a Social Security Number (SSN)
- Social Security Numbers are given to those who are authorized to work in the US and serve to report one’s wages to the government
  - Eligibility for Social Security benefits is also determined by this
- International students normally must be permitted to work as per regulations set forth by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- The steps to apply for a Social Security number at a local Social Security Office
  - Fill out the SS-5 form which is an application for a Social Security Card
  - Required documents include:
    - Work-authorized immigration status
    - Age
    - Identity
    - A letter from the Designated School Official that serves as proof of one’s identification, current school status, and identification of one’s employer and identification of the work they are partaking in
    - A letter from one’s employer identifying their job, employment start date, hours of employment, and supervisor’s contact information
  - If one is authorized to work in CPT, they must submit their I-20 form along with the completed employment page that is signed by their school’s Designated School Official
  - If one has a work permit (Form I-766), they have to present the form

Process for off-campus employment (OPT/CPT)
- Receive recommendation from your DSO and obtain an updated I-20 from university
- File form I-765 “Application for Employment Authorization” within 30 days
  - You will receive an EAD if approved
  - Do not work when your application is pending

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General tips:
● Simpler the better (Avoid extra decorations and frills. Most companies/schools are looking at 100s of resumes so the easier one makes their job, the better)
● Be consistent with the organization
● Bold relevant skills recruiters are looking for
● Do not include high school experiences past sophomore year of college

What should a resume include?
● Name/Contact Information should be at the top, easy to access
  ○ Email
  ○ Address
  ○ Phone number
  ○ Personal website (if applicable)
● Education
● Employment History
  ○ Include relevant work experience in chronological order (job title, hours, work done etc.)
● Relevant skills/tools and certifications
● Volunteer work
● Additional relevant accomplishments, awards, honors

*Resume should be 1-2 single sided pages (1 is ideal)
Template to design a resume: https://resumegenius.com/resume-templates

What should a CV include? (used for graduate school or jobs in academia)
● Name/Contact Info should be at the top, easy to access
  ○ Email
  ○ Address
  ○ Phone number
  ○ Personal website (if applicable)
● Include a personal statement summarizing experience and detailing career goals below contact information
● Education
● Detail course of career including professional experience, publications, volunteering
CV does not have to be chronological and can be divided up how one would like to showcase their experience. For example, one student who is applying to Student Affairs programs has her CV divided into
  ○ Education
  ○ Student Affairs Experience
  ○ Advocacy work
  ○ Skills
  ○ Awards
  ○ Publications
  ○ Other experiences

When you talk about your experience, use succinct statements to show what you have learned from that position and what you have accomplished
  ○ Example:
    ■ Lead organizer of X conference
      ● Oversaw the Curriculum, Social Media, and Evaluations Committees by attending meetings, establishing goals and priorities, and engaging in follow-ups
      ● Developed a virtual conference for Fall 2020 with expert-led presentations and audience engaging workshops that encourages students to grow their advocacy

*CV have no page limit and are usually much longer
Template for CV: https://www.thebalancecareers.com/curriculum-vitae-cv-template-2060353

Cover Letter
● A cover letter is a document sent with your resume to provide additional information on your skills. It is usually written for a specific job/position
● It should be between half a page and one full page in length
  ○ The letter should be divided into 3-4 short paragraphs

Conduct basic research before you write the letter
● What does the company/organization do?
● What does the position you are applying for involve?
● What are the skills needed for the position?

What should it include?
● Name/Contact Information
  ○ Email
  ○ Address
  ○ Phone number
  ○ Personal website (if applicable)
RESUME, CV, COVER LETTER

- The name of the hiring manager
  - This can usually be found on the company’s website
  - You can also call the company to find out; this demonstrates that you are really interested
- Where you found out about the position
- What makes you a good candidate for the position
  - Highlight hard and soft skills
  - Volunteer work
  - Relevant coursework
  - Clubs/extracurriculars
  - Honors
- Closing statements (thank the recruiter for their time)

How to build your resume
- It can be hard to gain work experience while being on a visa but there are other ways in which you can gain meaningful experiences!
- Join a technical/professional club at your university
  - This is a great way to make connections and find opportunities within your field of study
- Opt for volunteer positions
  - It is important to remember that there is a difference between unpaid internships and volunteering
  - Volunteering is usually when one donates their time with an organization that is charitable or humanitarian in nature; there is no compensation

  - [https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/employment-volunteer](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/employment-volunteer)

- Internships
  - Internships can be done on a F-1 visa; they usually cannot be done on a dependent visa
  - An internship is a great way to gain work experience in a field you are interested in pursuing

- Fellowships
  - Fellowships are a form of professional development
  - Fellowships are the only way a dependent visa student can get paid experience
  - A fellowship is a great way for a student to partake in a project related to their field of study


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35 “Employment and Volunteering.” Employment and Volunteering | International Center, internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/employment-volunteer.
Immigration Organizations
1. Immigrants Rising
   a. Instagram / @immigrantsrising
2. Informed Immigrant
   a. Instagram / @informed_immigrant
3. Immigrants Thrive
   a. Instagram / @immigrantsthrive
4. We The Aliens Podcast
   a. Instagram / @wethealienspod
5. Immigrant Justice Network
   a. Instagram / @immjusticenetwork
6. Immig Care
   a. Instagram / @immi.care
7. International Student Society of America
   a. Instagram / @issoaorg
8. Immigrantly Podcast
   a. Instagram / @immigrantlypod
9. Hyphenated America
   a. Instagram / @hyphenatedamerica
10. Immigrant Justice Now
    a. Instagram / @immigrantjusticenow
11. Improve The Dream
    a. Instagram / @improvethedream

Immigration Firms/Centers
1. For Immigrants By Immigrants (FIBI) Law
   a. Instagram / @fibilaw
2. JQK Law Firm
   a. Instagram / @jqklawfirm
3. Diaspora Law
   a. Instagram / @diasporalaw.immigration
4. American Immigration Lawyers Association
   a. Instagram / @ailanational
5. Passage Immigration Law
   a. Instagram / @passagelaw
6. Immigrant Defenders Law Center
   a. Instagram / @immdef_lawcenter
7. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center
   a. Instagram / @the_ilrc
8. National Immigrant Justice Center
   a. Instagram / @immigrantjustice
9. Americans for Immigrant Justice
   a. Instagram / @americansforimmigrantjustice
RESOURCES

Instagram
Immigration Organizations
1. @immigrant_buddies
2. @immigrationmicpodcast
3. @ourstorieseducation
4. @immfamtogether
5. @iamanimmigrant
6. @modernimmigrant

Mental Health Organizations
1. @southasiantherapists
2. @mentesequilibrio
3. @latinxtherapy
4. @immigrantsplace
5. @afirechicago

Asian Organizations
1. @civilasians
2. @aaajalc
3. @aafederation

South Asian Organizations
1. @naaisorg
2. @southasiantrailblazers
3. @southasiannetwork
4. @sahforums
5. @indianamericansforprogress
6. @saadaorg
7. @southasiansvote
8. @saavoice311
9. @asianhispanicorg

Black Organizations
1. @navigatingculture
2. @instabaji
3. @undocublack
4. @africansus
5. @haitianbridge

Latinx Organizations
1. @latinocommfdn
2. @asianhispanicorg
3. @cafeconlatinas
4. @latinxtherapy
RESOURCES

Twitter
Immigration Organizations
1. @Dream_RC
2. @E2visaDREAMER
3. @immigrantsrise
4. @cliniclegal
5. @SAALTweets
6. @CAPimmigration
7. @informed_imm

Mental Health Organizations
1. @cimhil
2. @MentalHealthAm
3. @NIMHgov

Asian Organizations
1. @AAAJ_AAJC
2. @AAAJ_ALC
3. @OCANational

South Asian Organizations
1. @NAAISORG
2. @sahforums
3. @southasianvote
4. @SAVoices

Black Organizations
1. @BAJItweet
2. @UndocuBlack
3. @blackimmnetwork

Latinx Organizations
1. @USALatinx
2. @LatinxEducation
3. @latinxtherapy
4. @latinxproject

Immigration Firms/Centers
1. @chavezandvalko
2. @CorpImmLawFirm
3. @SWLawGroup
4. @LegalDocs
1. **Advance parole** - Allows individuals to travel back to the United States without applying for a visa. An advance parole does not replace your passport.37
2. **Alien** - A term used to describe any person not a citizen or national of the United States
3. **CSPA** - Child Status Protection Act, protects certain children from aging out
4. **Curricular Practical Training** - Allows students to temporarily gain practical experience directly related to their major through employment
5. **CV** - A curriculum vitae, it is often multiple pages displaying all educational background
6. **Employment Authorization Document** - A work permit that is issued by the USCIS which allows non citizens to be temporarily employed
7. **E2** - A visa given to the spouse or child under the age of 21 who are dependent on E2 visa holders
8. **F2** - A visa given to the spouse or child under the age of 21 who are dependent on F1 visa holders
9. **Green card** - An official document that allows the individual to remain in a foreign country permanently
10. **H4** - A visa given to the spouse or child under the age of 21 who are dependent on H1B visa holders
11. **Immigrant** - An alien admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident 38
12. **I-20** - The certificate of eligibility for nonimmigrant (F-1) student status
13. **J2** - A visa given to the spouse or child under the age of 21 who are dependent on J1 visa holders
14. **Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)** - Any person not a citizen of the United States who is living in the U.S. under legally recognizes and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant
15. **L2** - A visa given to the spouse or child under the age of 21 who are dependent on L1 visa holders
16. **Nonimmigrant** - An alien who is admitted to the United States for a specific temporary period of time
17. **Optional Practical Training** - Temporary employment that is related to an F-1 student’s area of study
18. **Resume** - A document that displays an individual’s career/educational background and skills
19. **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)** - A government program that collects, maintains, and provides information that allows legitimate foreign students or exchange visitors to gain entry into the United States
20. **USCIS** - United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, this agency administers the country’s immigration system
21. **Visa** - An official document that allows the individual to enter a foreign country on a temporary basis 39

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