

Summer Vacation Semester

What is a vacation semester?

- A vacation semester is the **summer** semester in which students are considered by the school to be on break and are **not required** to be registered for classes. During this semester, a student is considered to be maintaining status even if s/he is not registered for any classes. To be eligible, students must intend to register full time for the next semester.
- Students are allowed to be full time in the summer semester; however, they must understand that they will not be eligible for another vacation until the next summer. Students who do not wish to be enrolled full-time in the summer vacation semester may choose to be enrolled less than full-time credits. For undergraduates, less than full-time is **11 credits or fewer**; for graduates, less than full-time is **8 credits or fewer**.
- A new initial student with a program start date set to begin with the summer semester must enroll full-time for that summer semester. They will not be eligible for a vacation semester until the following summer term.
- Students who start in the spring or fall semester are eligible for a vacation semester the next available summer term. For example, a student who begins their studies in spring semester must be full time in spring, can be below full time in the summer, and then must be full time in the next fall and spring before being eligible for another vacation semester the following summer.

How do I apply for a vacation semester?

There is no need to apply for a vacation semester, as summer is automatically a vacation semester for all F-1 students. You do not need to receive any official approval to go below full time in your summer vacation semester.

Can I work during a vacation semester?

Yes, however, please keep in mind these following guidelines:

- Students can work full time during the summer vacation (whether or not they are enrolled full time or less than full time) either on or off campus as long as they have requested and received permission from ISSS prior to working. Please see policies on [CPT](#) and [On Campus Work](#) for more details.
- While you may apply for full-time CPT during a non-vacation semester, you **MAY NOT** request to work full time **on campus** during non-vacation (fall and spring) semesters.

Can I study at another school during a vacation?

Yes. An F-1 student may attend another school during an authorized vacation period, provided he or she is eligible and intends to register for the next term at the University of Utah.

General guidelines:

- Your **last semester** is not considered a vacation semester. You must return to full time study after a vacation semester. To be authorized for under-enrollment during your last semester, please submit the Last Semester Request E-form.
- There are no exceptions to the vacation semester policy.
- **Travel:** You may legally remain in the U.S. during a vacation semester, but if you depart the U.S., a valid travel signature on your I-20 will be necessary for re-entry. If a travel signature is needed, please bring your I-20 to ISSS no later than one week before you depart. Although a travel signature is valid for one year, we recommend that a travel signature be no older than 6 months at the time you re-enter to avoid problems at a U.S. Port of Entry. Remember to travel with a valid passport, visa, and I-20 at all times.

***Disclaimer:** International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status at the University of Utah. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by ISSS should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website [here](#).*

***Maintaining Status:** USCIS states that it is the student's responsibility to understand the rules and regulations governing their visa [see 8 CFR 214.2(f)].*