

Social Security Numbers for Visiting Students on J-1

A Social Security number (SS#) is a taxpayer identification number issued by the Social Security Administration. It does not represent permission to work, nor is it proof of US citizenship or permanent residence. Once you obtain a SS#, it is your number forever and may be used on subsequent visits to the US. The Social Security Administration does not consider SSN# requests for drivers licenses, loans, rental agreements, etc. **Visiting Students on J-1 Visa are eligible to apply for the SS# after they have been in the US for at least 10 days and have registered for the current term.**

If you are paid in the US, you **must** have a SS# to file a US income tax return. **J-1 STUDENTS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ARE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL REGULATIONS TO FILE AT LEAST ONE TAX FORM, EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT WORKED IN THE US.**

If you would like to obtain a SS#, you must apply in person at a local office of the Social Security Administration. When you go, you must bring with you:

- ❑ your passport, with J-1 visa
- ❑ I-94 Card (For electronic I-94 holders - print out from www.cbp.gov/I94)
- ❑ DS-2019 form
- ❑ a letter of support from the International Students Office (you will receive at the orientation)
- ❑ Completed SS-5 Form (Download and print from <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.html>)

You will receive your Social Security number on a card in the mail approximately three weeks after you apply.

Social Security Administration Office:

10 Fawcett St. 1st. Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138-1171
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am–12 pm

1-888-527-9340
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov>

Directions: Take the Red Line to Harvard Sq, and go to the Upper Busway. Take the bus # 78 - Arlmont Village via Park Circle & Blanchard direction. Get off at the Concord Ave @ Fawcett St (14 stops, 10 minutes ride). Walk to 10 Fawcett St (1 min).

Information about J-1 exchange visitors who will be working in the United States is at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10107.html>