



Policy for Advising Prospective Visiting Post Baccalaureates and Undergraduate Visiting Students at the School of Continuing Studies

05/22/2011

For students desiring to attend Rice University as a Class III or undergraduate visiting student, which is processed through the School of Continuing Studies (SCS), it must be noted that Rice will not sponsor any visa for this purpose.

As per 8 C.F.R. § [214.2\(b\)\(7\)](#) and 8 C.F.R. § [248.1\(c\)](#), as amended by [67 Fed. Reg. 18062](#), B non-immigrants (B-1 visitors for business and B-2 visitors for pleasure) are not authorized to enroll in a course of study in the United States. (Prior to April 12, 2002, a B visitor could begin a course of study while an application for change of status was still pending.) The term “course of study” was clarified in the [INS memo HQISD/70-6.2.2-P](#), J. Williams (April 12, 2002). As the process to enroll at the School of Continuing Studies (SCS) entails a multipart application, it is deemed that these courses are neither casual nor vocational.

As per 8 CFR § [214.2\(f\)\(15\)\(ii\)](#) and [67 Fed. Reg. 76256](#), F-2 non-immigrants (dependents of F-1 students) may only register for courses that would be vocational or recreational in nature. As the process to enroll at the School of Continuing Studies (SCS) entails a multipart application, it is deemed that these courses are neither casual nor vocational.

For all other visa types, SCS will provide an OISS advisor a copy of the prospective student’s passport and current visa documents (this includes visa stamp, I-94 card, and any other supporting documents). The ability for the foreign national to continue with the application process will be determined by the OISS advisor’s evaluation of the visa category in conjunction with a course of study.

Possible categories where a student can study without OISS approval include H-4 and J-2 visa holders. For a chart on visa categories and their ability to study in the US, please refer to: http://www.nafsa.org/Document/_who_can_study_an_sevp.pdf. All decisions to allow a foreign national to study at the SCS should have prior approval from an OISS advisor.

Eligibility to study does not mean eligibility to work on campus. It is important to remember that eligibility to study in one of these non-immigrant categories does not give authorization to be employed on campus. Some categories of dependents (e.g., J-2) can seek an EAD which would allow them to engage in any kind of employment, including on-campus employment. In those cases, though, the individual's work authorization stems from a source other than being a student.

Student’s Name	Visa Type	Expiration Date
OISS Advisor	OISS Signature	Date