

English Language Institute

Summer Break (Annual Vacation) Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the rules and requirements for F-1 students who wish to take an authorized annual vacation (summer break) while maintaining valid immigration status in the United States.

2. Eligibility Requirements

F-1 students may be eligible for an annual vacation if they:

- Have maintained full-time enrollment for at least one full academic year (typically Fall and Spring terms).
- Are in valid F-1 status at the time of the vacation.
- Intend to continue their program of study in the following required academic term.

3. Authorized Vacation Term

- The annual vacation is typically taken during the summer term, as defined by the Institute's academic calendar.
- Students may not take a vacation during a required academic term unless otherwise authorized.

4. Enrollment Requirements

- Students must enroll full-time in the next required academic term (Fall).
- Summer enrollment is required if:
 - The summer term is the student's initial term of enrollment, or
 - The student must enroll to complete program requirements.

5. SEVIS and I-20 Status

- The student's SEVIS record will remain in Active status during the authorized vacation period.
- A new Form I-20 is not required solely for the purpose of taking an annual vacation.

- Students must report any changes to their personal or academic information in accordance with federal regulations.

6. Travel During Vacation

Students traveling outside the United States during the annual vacation must have:

- A valid passport (valid for at least six months into the future)
- A valid F-1 visa (unless exempt)
- A valid travel signature on Form I-20 (signed within the past 12 months)

7. Maintenance of Status

To maintain lawful F-1 status during and after the annual vacation, students must:

- Remain eligible for enrollment and return for the next required term
- Refrain from unauthorized employment
- Comply with all U.S. immigration regulations and institutional policies

Failure to comply may result in termination of SEVIS record and loss of F-1 status.

8. Exceptions and Special Cases

- Any exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the Designated School Official (DSO).

9. Policy Authority

This policy is governed by federal F-1 visa regulations and is administered by the Institute's Designated School Officials (DSOs).

For questions or clarification, students should contact the Designated School Official (DSO).

10. Important Conditions for Annual Vacation

Please note the following important conditions regarding your annual vacation:

- The authorized annual vacation cannot be taken during your final term of study.
- The vacation term does not qualify as a transfer-out term.
- The 60-day grace period does not apply during the annual vacation period, as the student's SEVIS record remains in Active status.

11. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: Can I take my annual vacation during my last term?

No. The annual vacation cannot be taken during your final term of study.

Q2: Will my SEVIS record remain active during my vacation?

Yes. Your SEVIS record will remain in Active status during an authorized annual vacation.

Q3: Do I need to enroll in classes during the summer?

Not if you are eligible for an annual vacation, unless required for your program.

Q4: Does my vacation count as a transfer-out term?

No. The annual vacation does not count as a transfer-out term.

Q5: Does the 60-day grace period apply during my vacation?

No. The 60-day grace period does not apply during the annual vacation period.

Q6: Can I travel outside the U.S. during my vacation?

Yes, with proper documentation including passport, visa, and travel signature.

Q7: What happens if I do not return after my vacation?

Failure to enroll may result in termination of your SEVIS record.

Q8: Who should I contact if I have questions?

Please contact your Designated School Official (DSO).