



# **CT STATE: ONE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW**

**CT STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# CT State: One College International Student Admissions Overview

*Facilitators – **the International Student Admissions Team:***

***Jennifer Wissink**, International Student Services Coordinator, DSO*

***Danlei Wang**, International Student Services Coordinator, DSO*

***Justyna Davis**, International Student Services Coordinator, DSO*

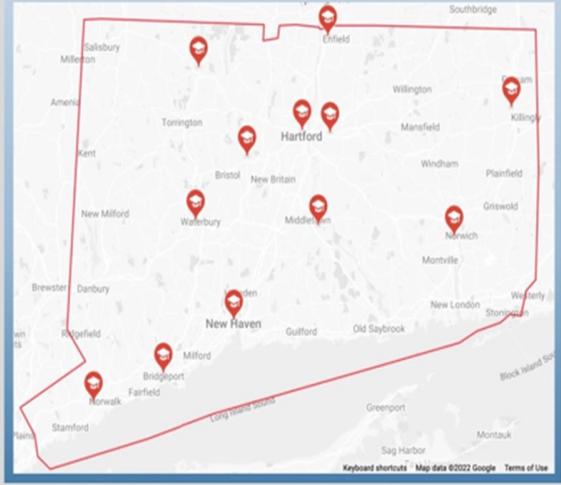
***Ashkhen Strack**, Director of International Student Admissions, PDSO*

# Helpful Terms

- **International Student** – a student who is in the US specifically for the purpose of study, is not a US citizen or permanent resident (“green card” holder) and has non-immigrant F-1 visa status.
- **F-1 Visa** – the type of visa our international students receive to study in the US.
- **DSO** – Designated School Official – an employee assisting and overseeing students who are studying at a US institution on a student visa.
- **PDSO** – Principal Designated School Official - a DSO with added responsibilities.
- **SEVP** – Student and Exchange Visitor Program – a program that on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), manages schools and international students. In order to enroll international students, schools must be SEVP-certified.
- **SEVIS** - Student and Exchange Visitor Information System – a web-based system DHS uses to maintain information on SEVP-certified schools, international students and exchange visitors.
- **I-20 Form (Certificate of Eligibility)** - document issued by a SEVP-certified school certifying that a student has been admitted to a full-time degree program and has demonstrated sufficient financial resources to stay in the United States. The I-20 form allows foreign nationals to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad.

# CT State International Students

- 300+ current international students
- 40+ countries (top countries are Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, Jamaica)
- Norwalk Campus hosts most of our international students



**12 Unique Campuses**

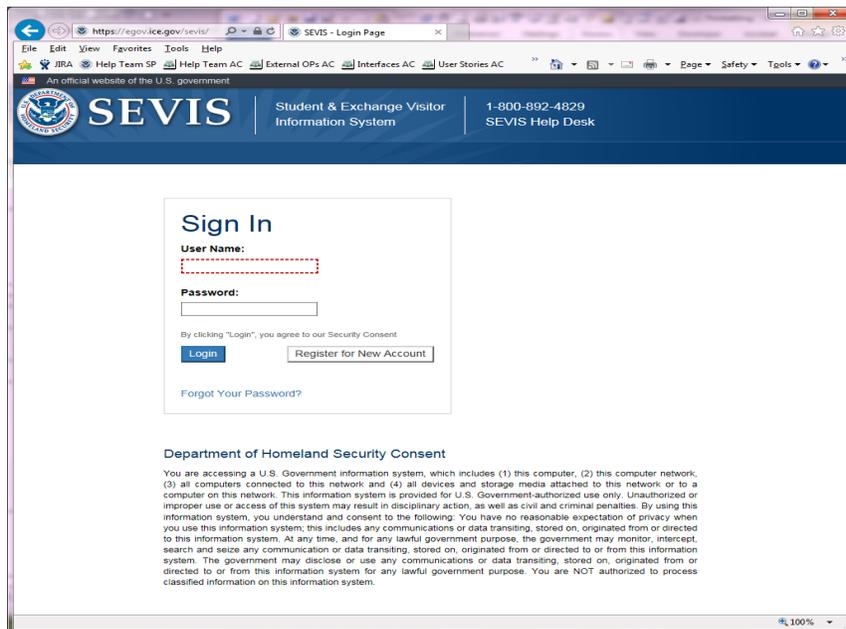
- Asnuntuck Community College (*Enfield, CT*)
- Capital Community College (*Hartford, CT*)
- Gateway Community College (*New Haven, CT*)
- Housatonic Community College (*Bridgeport, CT*)
- Manchester Community College (*Manchester, CT*)
- Middlesex Community College (*Middletown, CT*)
- Naugatuck Valley Community College (*Waterbury, CT*)
- Northwestern CT Community College (*Winsted, CT*)
- Norwalk Community College (*Norwalk, CT*)
- Quinebaug Valley Community College (*Danielson, CT*)
- Three Rivers Community College (*Norwich, CT*)
- Tunxis Community College (*Farmington, CT*)

# International Student Admissions Team's Main Tasks and Duties



## Compliance and Reporting

- Maintaining and meeting SEVIS regulatory requirements
- Maintaining CT State's SEVP certification - Currently, 9 out of 12 campuses hold individual SEVP certifications and can continue to accept international students. Once CT State's NECHE accreditation is finalized in the Summer of 2023, the International Team will start the SEVP certification process for CT State as one institution, and it will include all 12 campuses. This process may take up to a year, and the International Team will be working closely with our regional SEVP representative to ensure compliance.
- Advising students, their sponsors, and CT State's leadership on federal regulations related to visa procedures



## International Student Services

- Working with prospective, new, current and former international students on all aspects of the F1 student visa
- Communicating with prospective students and effectively conducting pre-admission counseling to ensure a thorough understanding of SEVIS requirements
- Continuous counseling of international students during the entire tenure at CT State with the focus on maintaining legal status, employment and travel regulations, extension of stay, change of status, cultural and financial needs, as well as the available student services on each campus
- Updating and maintaining student information in SEVIS
- Managing all phases of international student application and file reviews and ensuring smooth transitions for enrolling students



## Outreach and Recruitment

- Developing and implementing marketing and outreach strategies to increase our international student enrollment
- Working with international education agencies, universities and colleges abroad and in the US to promote CT State internationally
- Building and maintaining relationships with SEVP-certified secondary schools in CT and promoting CT State on their campuses
- Representing CT State at on- and off-campus events



# Training

- Developing and facilitating training materials and professional development workshops for student service staff and faculty
- Developing and facilitating training materials, webinars and info-sessions for prospective, new and current international students

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING INFO-SESSIONS  
FOR GP ADVISORS  
SPRING 2023**



**CT State International Student Admissions Team** invites all GPAs to attend a virtual info-session, learn more about international student advising, share their experience, and ask questions.

Available dates:

- February 7, 2023, 10:00 – 10:45 am  
Ashken Strack: <https://t.me/websites.com/mec/AStrack@ctstateadmissions.com>
- March 8, 2023, 12:30 – 1:15 pm  
Justyna Davis: <https://t.me/websites.com/mec/JDavis@ctstateadmissions.com>
- April 4, 2023, 10:00 – 10:45 am  
Jennifer Wissink: <https://t.me/websites.com/mec/JWissink@ctstateadmissions.com>

For questions, please email us: [CTStateInternationalAdmissions@ct.edu](mailto:CTStateInternationalAdmissions@ct.edu)



**CT STATE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING GUIDE**

Please contact the International Student Admissions Team with any questions:

Ashken Strack  
Director of International Student Admissions, PDSO  
[astrack@tunisix.edu](mailto:astrack@tunisix.edu)  
(860) 773-1489

Jennifer Wissink  
International Student Services Coordinator, DSO  
(203) 575-8010  
[jwissink@nvcc.edu](mailto:jwissink@nvcc.edu)

Danlei Wang  
International Student Services Coordinator, DSO  
(203) 285-2083  
[dwang@pwcc.edu](mailto:dwang@pwcc.edu)

Justyna Davis  
International Student Services Coordinator, DSO  
(203) 857-7282  
[jdavis@mcc.edu](mailto:jdavis@mcc.edu)

## **CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### MAINTAINING YOUR F-1 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STATUS

While studying in the United States, you must maintain your F-1 student visa status. F-1 student visa status means that the purpose of your being in the United States is to study. You should not take any action that detracts from that purpose. Maintaining your status means:

- Fulfilling the purpose for receiving an F-1 visa
- Following the regulations associated with that purpose

As an F-1 visa holder, you must know and follow the rules of your immigration status as outlined by USCIS (US Citizenship & Immigration Services). If you do not comply with these regulations, you will be jeopardizing your ability to stay in the US. This is especially important because all international student information is tracked through the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System, also known as SEVIS. Although the International Student Services Coordinators/DSOs are here to support you during your stay at CT State Community College, the responsibility for maintaining legal status is ultimately yours. Below you will find a summary of the primary immigration regulations that you need to know.

**DO NOT work in the United States without authorization.** F-1 students are allowed to work on campus up to 20 hours per week when school is in session, with approval from the International Student Services Coordinator/DSO. International students may work in "Student Assistant"/"Student labor" positions only, but there are unfortunately very few opportunities available. Working off-campus ALWAYS requires authorization from USCIS. Students who have studied full-time and maintained legal status for one academic year may apply to USCIS for a limited period of off-campus work permission. The International Student Services Coordinator/DSO can provide you with more information about these employment options.

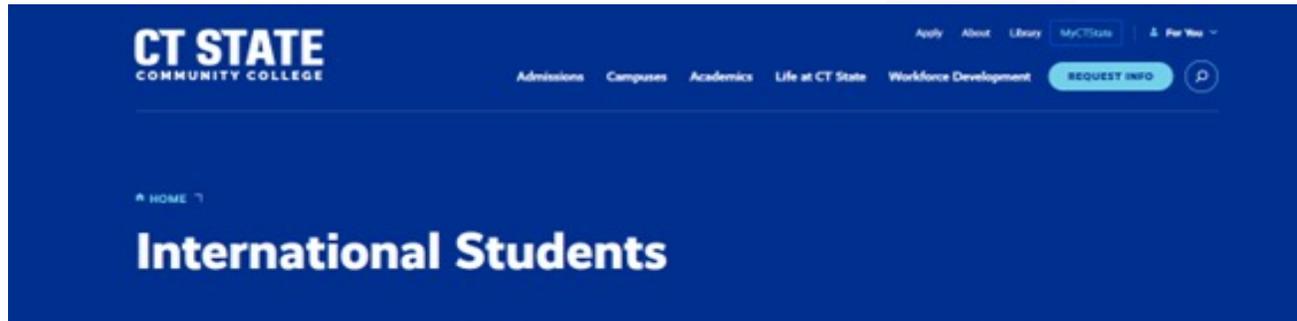
**You must attend the college listed on your Form I-20.**

**You must complete a full-time course load every fall and spring semester.** Full-time study is defined under the law as 12 credits per semester.

Under COVID-19 immigration guidance, continuing international students are allowed to take multiple on-line classes, while new international students must take at least one in-person class. However, the normal regulations limit students to one on-line course per academic term. Before course registration, always check with the International Student Services Coordinator/DSO to confirm the most recent guidelines.

# International Students Website

- Web page link: <https://ctstate.edu/international-students>
- Information for prospective, new and continuing students, as well as advisors, student service staff, and faculty
- Links to useful resources, guides, and forms



CT State welcomes international students from more than 40 countries around the world. With 12 campuses around Connecticut, we offer a quality educational experience in an accessible and affordable environment with resources to support you throughout your academic career. Whatever your educational goal is, CT State can help you achieve it. With more than 300 degrees and certificate programs and thousands of courses, CT State has a strong academic team committed to your success.



# **CT STATE: ONE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW**

**QUESTIONS?**

[CTState-InternationalAdmissions@ct.edu](mailto:CTState-InternationalAdmissions@ct.edu)

**CT STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE