GU immigration services

International Student and Scholar (IS) Advisors in the Office of Global Services (OGS) provide free* services related to the below statuses to members of the Georgetown community:

- Statutes for full-time study: F-1 Student, J-1 Exchange Visitor
- Statutes for faculty, staff, researchers, and interns: E-3, J-1, H-1B, O-1, P-3, TN, etc.
- Employment-based lawful permanent residence (green card) for eligible faculty, staff, and researchers (see policy)
  - OGS only files the Labor Certification and the Form I-140 immigrant petition; the employee is responsible for the Form I-485 adjustment of status application, which may be filed with the University petition.

Student policy on use of outside immigration attorneys

The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requires that University functionaries (IS Advisors) serve as F-1 Designated School Officials (DSOs) and J-1 Alternate Responsible Officers (AROs). These representatives must approve any application for F-1 off-campus authorization and any application for J-1 on- or off-campus authorization. Students should consult with their IS Advisor prior to seeking outside counsel in order to avoid unnecessary expenses. IS Advisors may recommend consultation with an immigration attorney in particularly complex or uncertain circumstances.

*Students are responsible for paying application fees charged by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Faculty/staff/researcher policy on use of outside immigration attorneys

University employees must coordinate all petitions and applications with the Office of Global Services (OGS) in order to ensure consistency in institutional information submitted to the U.S. government and compliance with institutional sponsorship guidelines. University employees cannot use an outside attorney to file a Labor Certification. University employees may be responsible for attorney fees if referred to an immigration attorney by an IS Advisor.

Choosing an immigration attorney

Use great care and consider factors such as experience/specialization/expertise in your particular area of concern; comfort in disclosing confidential information, including potential violations of the laws governing your status; fees (often correlated with quality of service); and size of firm (often correlated with resources) vs. personalization of services (sometimes a trade-off; find a balance).

Immigration attorneys & clinics reference list

For reference only; OGS cannot officially endorse any of these attorneys. Please contact us to provide feedback on any of these attorneys.

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Immigration Legal Services

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