

Social Security Number (SSN) Application Instructions

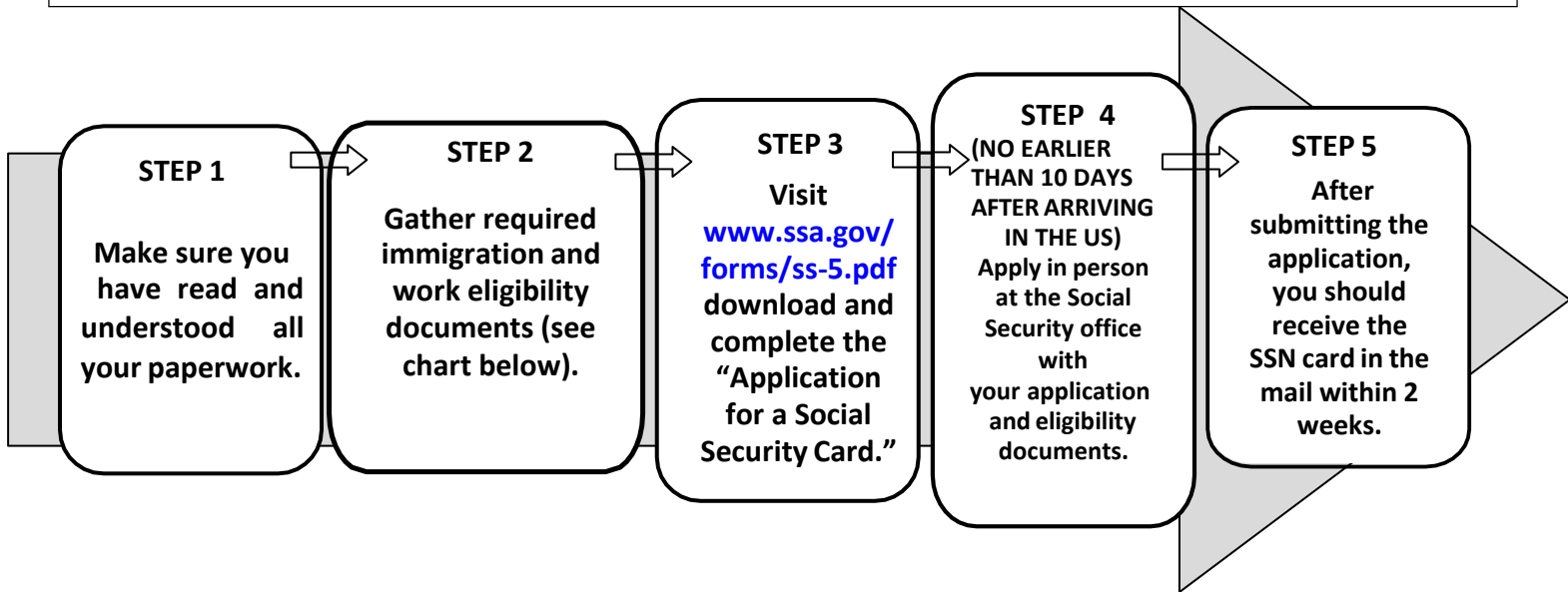
A Social Security Number is a unique, 9-digit identification number issued by the US Social Security Administration (SSA). An SSN is a requirement for all persons who work and receive pay in the US. The SSN is used to report wages to the government.

Your SSN and Student ID number are different. When you are asked for these numbers, be clear about which one is needed. The Student ID Number generally is valid only at NSU. NEVER give your SSN unless it is required.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND MATERIALS

International applicants apply *in person* at the nearest Social Security office NO EARLIER THAN 10 days after arriving in the US. Only short-term scholars who will be in the US less than 5 weeks should apply for their SSN immediately after arriving in the US without waiting 10 days.

To apply, take the original documents noted in the table below. With the exception of the Social Security Card Application (SS-5, download at www.ssa.gov), all other documents will be examined and returned immediately to you. After submitting the application, you should receive the SSN card in the mail within 14 days.



Required Documents	F1/J1 Students	Check
Complete SS card application	YES	
Unexpired Passport with VISA	Yes	
I-94 record	Yes	
I-20/DS-2019	Yes	
Work Eligibility Document(s)	On-Campus Employment Letter	

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a Social Security Number? If you will be working on-campus, receiving a fellowship or stipend through Payroll or if you are a J-1 scholar, then it is necessary for you to obtain a Social Security number.

Do I need an SSN to open a bank account, get utility services or a cell phone? No. Although the SSN will be requested during many daily activities such as banking, utilities, phones, etc., it is only *required* for employment. However, if you do not have an SSN you will likely have to follow additional procedures, such as paying a deposit.

Do I need an SSN before I start working? Yes. It is a University policy to have a SSN Card to process your paperwork and enter your in the system as an employee.

When can I apply for an SSN? International applicants with a job offer can apply for an SSN NO EARLIER THAN 10 DAYS after your entry to the United States in your current status. An SSN cannot be issued for on-campus employment or for authorized CPT if the start date for the employment is more than 30 days into the future. Individuals applying for an SSN based on OPT approval may not apply until after the start date listed on the EAD card.

How long will it take to get an SSN? SSA must verify your documents with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) before assigning you an SSN. After receiving verification from DHS, SSA will mail your Social Security card. *Most of the time, you will receive your card within 7 to 14 days.* If you do not receive the card within 30 days, return to the Social Security office to inquire. DO NOT apply for a second card; you will have only one SSN in your lifetime. If you continue to experience difficulties obtaining the card, contact OIE.

What happens if my SSN card is lost or stolen? You can replace your card for free if it is lost or stolen. To get a replacement card, you must take the same original documentation that you used when you first applied for an SSN to the local Social Security office, including proof of on campus job or off campus employment authorization (CPT, OPT). On the SS-5 form you will indicate that you are applying for a replacement. Your replacement card will have the same name and number as your previous card.

How do I get my I-94? In most cases, you can download and print your I-94 number from www.cbp.gov/i94. Some students and scholars may have paper I-94 records (for example, with an approved change of status, H approval, entry through a land border). The paper I-94 is also acceptable at SSA.

Tips to secure your Social Security Number

It is very important that you do not share your Social Security Number with anyone else as this can lead to Identity Theft, i.e., someone can use your SSN to perform illegal transactions or activities that will be attributed to you without your knowledge. Below are some tips that will help you to secure your Social Security Number:

- Memorize your SSN. The best place to keep your SSN is in your mind.
- Do not carry around your Social Security card in your wallet. Instead, keep it in a safe, secure and secret place and keep it forever. You are issued one SSN for life. If you received a number previously, you keep the same number.
- Do not give out your SSN to anybody, including your family members or friends, unless it is absolutely necessary. If you are required to do so, don't hesitate to ask the reason they need your SSN.
- Beware with on-line transactions. Normally you are not required to give out your SSN. If you are told to do so, be sure that the site is trusted and secured. In some cases, you may have to give the last four digits of your SSN.
- As a customer, when you are talking with customer service agents requesting information or filing a complaint, avoid telling them your SSN. In most cases, agent will just ask you the last four digits of your SSN.

DIRECTIONS THE NATCHITOCHESS SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

The SSN Natchitoches Office is open on M, T, TH, F from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and W from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Please arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to process a SSN application.

950 Keyser Ave., Natchitoches, LA 71457 (Phone) 1-855-634-4195 (TTY) 1-800-325-0778

Social Security Administration

Telephone Service: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 1-800-772-1213 (national number) SS-5 forms available at: www.ssa.gov