



Center for International Students and Scholars (CISS)

Tax Information for International Students

Disclaimer: The following guidelines are for informational purposes only, and should not be considered financial or legal advice

Frequently Asked Questions	Answer
Do I Need to File Taxes?	<p>Yes. Even non-U.S. citizens are required to file taxes each year, even if just to report the number of days you have been present in the United States. This is true even if you did not earn income. Generally, taxes are divided into federal and state, and the requirements for each may be different.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All international students, along with their dependents, should file a Form 8843, even if you have not received income • If you <i>have</i> received income in the past calendar year, you will also likely need to complete a Form 1040NR-EZ, and/or other tax forms based on employer arrangement and citizenship status. You can find all forms and instructions on the IRS website.
Why Should I File a Tax Return?	<p>All international students and their dependents are required by law to file a tax return. Filing a tax return may also provide you with the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may receive a refund from the government • Protect taxation of your worldwide income • Fulfill your visa obligations
When Should I File?	<p>The tax deadline is generally April 15th for the previous tax year (January to December). Most forms required to file taxes will be mailed to you and/or available online by February for the previous year tax year.</p>
What Forms Do I Need?	<p>Between January and mid-March, individuals will start receiving mail or emails with tax information and documents. These documents may come from multiple sources, including your employer, your school, or your health insurance company. Do not discard these documents. Some examples of forms you may receive include: Form W-2, Form 1095-C, Form 1098-T, Form 1099-MISC</p>
How Do I File?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: All forms are available online from the IRS website. You can print these forms, complete them for each family member, and submit them to the IRS for processing. • Option 2: Use a tax preparation software. There are many software companies available online for free or for purchase that provide step-by-step guides to filing. <i>Each year, CISS purchases access to tax preparation software (FNTR) to help you file. We will send an email to all students at the beginning of the tax season for those who wish to request an access code.</i> Please note that you may be also required to submit hard copies of forms that may not be filed electronically • Option 3: Pay to have a tax professional or accountant to help you file. This is a good option if your tax or financial situation is complex.
I did not file last year. What should I do?	<p>If you missed the filing deadline or did not file the previous year, you can still file. If you don't owe the U.S. government money, you likely will not face any penalty for filing late. We do, however, encourage all students to file their taxes on time to avoid possible problems.</p>
I received a call from the IRS (SCAM ADVISORY)	<p>The IRS will not contact you via telephone nor ask for payment over the phone or through purchase of gift cards, and will not threaten deportation. Scams, or fake phone calls or schemes by money-seeking criminals, increase during tax season. It is especially important this time of year that you do not provide sensitive information (including Social Security information, bank account numbers, etc.) unless the source has been verified. Please see following page for complete information regarding how to avoid and address IRS and other scams.</p>

Scam Advisory

The CISS has been informed that multiple international students and scholars have received scam calls from individuals that claim to be government officials (FBI, USCIS, IRS, Detention Centers, 911) using fake phone numbers that can imitate government agencies. Sometimes, these callers demand personally identifiable information (financial information, bank account numbers, SSN number, etc.) or payment of “fees” via wire transfer or gift cards to resolve what they claim to be a problem with your immigration status or taxes, and that you are under surveillance and at risk of deportation. They may also tell you that contacting any other individual or referencing another source regarding the issue may result in serious consequences or deportation. **These calls are false.** Even if the caller knows information about you already, *do not* share any additional information or financial information with the caller.

Important Reminders:

- Government agencies **will not** call you to demand payment over the phone, even if you owe money or have not paid a fee. Any communications will occur in writing via official government mail.
- 911 will never call you. The only time that 911 may show up on your caller ID is in the case of a widespread emergency or safety advisory in your area. These are generally pre-recorded messages.
- The government will never ask for you to pay a fee via a particular payment method (such as wire transfer, gift cards, etc.).
- The government will not ask for personal, financial, SSN, bank account information, credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- The government will not threaten arrest or deportation for late payment on a fee.
- A government agent cannot remain anonymous. They are required to give badge information.

What if I receive a similar call from someone claiming to be a government official?

- 1) Do NOT share any personal or financial information, and do NOT transfer any money.
- 2) Ask for the name and contact number for whomever is calling, along with a badge number.
- 3) HANG UP. Do not answer additional calls from that number.
- 4) Report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>
- 5) Call Bentley University Police’s non-emergency number at 781-891-2201 to report it to the university. Then call CISS at 781-891-2829 or email GA_CISS@bentley.edu to report it to the Center for International Students and Scholars.

What if I already gave them information or money?

- 1) Call Bentley University Police’s non-emergency number at 781-891-2201 to file a report. Unfortunately, in most cases, the police will not be able to recover any lost money. However, the police report is useful in making other credit protections moving forward.
- 2) Notify the CISS that you have been subject to a scam.
- 3) If you disclosed your Social Security Number, [report this to the SSA](#).
- 4) Report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.identitytheft.gov/> and research a plan to monitor your credit and potential fraudulent activities.

Why was I targeted?

Bentley University does not disclose information about your student or immigration status. Frequently, scammers use information available publically online via social media and other websites to make an informed assumption about your status. To further protect yourself from potential scams, you may wish to:

1. Check your LinkedIn and related accounts. Remove any contact information (other than email, if required).
2. Check your social media accounts, particularly if they are public. Remove your phone number for these accounts, and be mindful of what you post online.
3. Check if your contact or other personal information is available via online directories. You may inquire about getting these listings removed.

For any questions regarding scams, your status, or immigration-related fees, please contact Bentley University's Center for International Students and Scholars at GA_CISS@bentley.edu or 781-891-2829.