How to Apply for an SSN

The Social Security Administration (SSA) office in New Haven is currently closed to walk-in traffic. OISS has been working with the SSA to provide special limited appointments specifically for the Yale international community. Please read through this page to confirm your eligibility to apply. The link to request an appointment is at the bottom of this page.

Are You Eligible to Apply for a Social Security Number (SSN)?

In order to apply for an SSN, you must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- F-1 students who have secured on campus employment, are receiving for-service fellowships, or working off-campus with OPT or CPT
- All F-1 PhD students
- J-1 students with letter of permission to work from sponsor (either Yale or outside organization, e.g. Fulbright)
- All J-1 scholars and anyone in H-1B, TN, or O-1 status
- J-2 spouses with permission to work from USCIS (i.e. with an EAD card)

In addition to the above, the following requirements must also be met:

1. You are in Active Status

You are a new or continuing international student or scholar. If you are new, you have checked in with OISS and your school or department as necessary:

   New Students

   Instructions for checking in may be found at Your First Two Weeks [1]. New students should also review the information at New Students: SSN and ITIN [2].

   New Scholars

   Instructions for checking in may be found at Your First Two Weeks [3].

2. You Have a Yale NetID

Note that you must have a Yale NetID to complete the request form. If you have not yet received your NetID, please reach out to your department. Partners/spouses and others who do not have NetIDs should have their Yale-affiliated partner/spouse fill out this form for them.

3. You are in the New Haven Area

These appointments are in-person, so you must be in New Haven area. Additionally, you will need to pick up letters from the OISS office ahead of time.

4. You Meet SSA Quarantine Requirements
You will need to be in the U.S. for at least 14 days prior to the appointment date. If you are not sure if you will be in the U.S. long enough, complete the request form anyway and you will be contacted when you are eligible to sign up for an appointment. Please note that these are SSA requirements, not Yale requirements, so vaccination status is not relevant.

Required Documents

You will also need to complete an application form, and some students and scholars may need additional documentation. Please see the specific instructions below.

F-1 Students

On-Campus Employment

1. Complete and print an application form (Form SS-5), available online [4].
2. Obtain a letter confirming your Yale related immigration status and employment eligibility from OISS. You will receive instructions on how to get this letter from OISS after you make your appointment.
3. Obtain written verification from your employer or the for-service fellowship sponsor which includes the nature of the employment or fellowship, number of hours, and the date employment is expected to begin.
   - Yale College – Written verification of employment can be requested from the Student Employment Office.
   - Masters and Professional Students - Written verification can come directly from your School or from the Student Employment Office. (Note: If you are an MA student and a TA in GSAS, then please contact the Teaching Fellow Program [5] for an employment letter)
   - PhD Students – All PhD students are eligible to apply for a social security number. Make a copy of your letter of admission and print a letter certifying your eligibility to apply:
     1. Log into OISS Connect [6] and click the Log in button in the ‘Yale Students’ section.
     2. Under Requests, click on ‘Immigration Online Check-In’
     3. Scroll down to the Learning Content section and click on ‘SSN Letter’
     4. Click the Print button
4. On your appointment date, take the documents above along with your passport, I-94 record [7], and your I-20 to the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 150 Court Street, 4th Floor.

On CPT or OPT

1. Complete and print an application form (Form SS-5), available online [4].
2. Obtain a letter confirming your Yale related immigration status and employment eligibility from OISS. You will receive instructions on how to get this letter from OISS after you make your appointment.
3. On your appointment date, take the documents above along with your passport, I-94 record [7], and your I-20 with CPT or OPT authorization when you go to the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 150 Court Street, 4th Floor.
4. If you are on OPT, you will also need to present your Employment Authorization Card.

J-1 Exchange Visitors

1. Complete and print an application form (Form SS-5), available online [4].
2. Obtain a letter confirming your Yale related immigration status and employment eligibility from OISS. You will receive instructions on how to get this letter from OISS after you make your appointment.
3. On your appointment date, take the documents above along with your passport, I-94 record [7], and your DS-2019 form to the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 150 Court Street, 4th Floor.
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J-2

1. Complete and print an application form (Form SS-5), available online [4].
2. On your appointment date, take the application along with your passport, Employment Authorization Card (EAD), I-94 record [7], and your DS-2019 form to the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 150 Court Street, 4th Floor.

H-1B/O-1

1. Complete and print an application form (Form SS-5), available online [4].
2. On your appointment date, take the application along with your passport, I-797 approval notice, and I-94 record [7] to the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 150 Court Street, 4th Floor.

TN

1. Complete and print an application form (Form SS-5), available online [4].
2. On your appointment date, take the application along with your passport, I-797 approval notice, and I-94 record [7] to the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 150 Court Street, 4th Floor.

Request an Appointment

If you have met all of the above requirements, you may request an appointment by completing this request form [8]. Once you are approved, you will receive an email from OISS within 2-3 weeks when an appointment date is available. Keep an eye out for this email as you will need to register for a specific time slot.

Please do not sign up for a Social Security appointment unless you qualify.

OISS will make arrangements with the New Haven office and inform them of your appointment.

Yale College Undergraduate Students

Before you complete the request form, please send an email to your designated adviser Ozan Say [9] with the subject line “On Campus Job & SSN” and he will share further instructions with you.

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/taxes-legal/social-security-number-itin/how-to-apply-for-an-ssn

Links:
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/your-first-two-weeks
[9] mailto:ozan.say@yale.edu?subject=On%20Campus%20Job%20%26%20SSN