

## **UAF Policy 09.11.001**

Original Adoption: December 19, 2017

Revised: February 3, 2025

Responsible Chancellor's Cabinet Member: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Responsible Department/Office: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)



# **Policy on Mandatory Insurance for F-1 and J-1 International Students and Study Away Students**

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## **1.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

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Under the authority delegated to the Chancellor by Board of Regents Policy (Part IX, Chapter 09.11.20) medical insurance and insurance to cover expenses of medical evacuation and repatriation of remains is mandatory for the following categories of students enrolled at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF):

- International students in F-1 and J-1 visa categories for whom UAF issues immigration documents through International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).
- All students participating in an exchange and study abroad programs outside the United States, that are administered through the UAF Study Away Program.

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION**

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### **International Students:**

The United States does not have a national health care system available to international students and their families. This University policy exists for the protection of international students from financial hardship resulting from the need for medical attention, evacuation, and/or repatriation of remains.

### **Study Away:**

The cost of medical evacuation to Alaska from common study away sites can be very high. Some students have health coverage through their parents or as individuals, which may address the requirement, but many plans do not.

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## **3.0 NON-COMPLIANCE**

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The UAF International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) must terminate an exchange visitor's (J-1) participation in their program if the sponsor determines the exchange visitor or any accompanying spouse or dependent(s) willfully fails to remain in compliance.

F-1 students are required to have UAF health insurance and if they do not pay their health insurance charge by the Fee Payment deadline, the student risks being dropped from their classes and will result in termination of their F-1 status for non-compliance.

The UAF Study Away Program will not enroll students in UAF study away placeholder credits unless they provide documentation of appropriate insurance coverage.

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## 4.0 DEFINITIONS

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**International Students in F-1 status** are primarily degree-seeking students and in some cases non-degree-seeking.

**International Students in J-1 status** are primarily non-degree-seeking students attending UAF through a formalized partnership arrangement.

**Study Away** is short term (one or two semesters) UAF student enrollment at a U.S. or international institution that is arranged through the UAF Study Away Program. Students remain UAF degree-seeking students and do not transfer to the other institution.

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## 5.0 REFERENCES RELIED UPON

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[UA Board of Regents' Policy Part IX, Chapter 09.11.20 Health and Counseling Services and Fees: Health Insurance](#)

[22 CFR 62.14\(a\): Federal law requires J-1 students and their J-2 dependents to have sickness and accident insurance for the duration of the J-1's program.](#)

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## 6.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

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### **International Students**

- UAF health insurance premium is automatically applied to F-1 and J-1 student accounts each semester.
- Students may provide documentation of appropriate coverage to the UAF insurance carrier directly requesting a waiver of the UAF health insurance charge. Waiver submissions are due the Friday before courses start.

### **Study Away Students**

- UAF requires students on study away programs outside of the United States to purchase an approved policy for the duration of their program, that includes coverage of medical evacuation, and/or repatriation of remains.
- Students will provide documentation of appropriate coverage to the UAF Study Away Program.

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## 7.0 EXCEPTIONS

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None

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## 8.0 PROCEDURES

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**International Students** meet this requirement by:

- Enrolling in classes in the spring, summer, and fall semesters. Students are automatically enrolled in the UAF health insurance plan each semester. Charges will automatically be applied to the student's account and must be paid by the fee payment deadline.
- The requirement to purchase the UAF student health insurance plan may be waived **only** if the international student meets certain eligibility criteria **and** if the student provides a comparable insurance plan, in English, that is valid in the U.S. Please contact the UAF International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) for more information.

**Study Away Students** meet this requirement by:

- Participating in a study abroad program where insurance meeting the requirements is included in the program cost charged to the student.
- Purchasing an approved policy. Contact the UAF Study Away Program for approved providers.

POLICY APPROVED BY:



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Daniel M. White, Chancellor  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Signed: March 28, 2025