

# Carnegie Mellon University

## Office of International Education

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### Information for International Spouses and Families

Many resources are available for international spouses and families in Pittsburgh both on and off the Carnegie Mellon campus. For more information about resources or other issues that affect spouses and families, speak with an OIE advisor or attend a Carnegie Mellon International Spouse and Partner's Organization (ISPO) event.

#### Reporting requirements for J-2 dependents:

- CMU must report email addresses for each J-2 dependent in SEVIS. Report this information by emailing [oiie@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:oiie@andrew.cmu.edu) for each J-2 dependent.
- CMU must report if a J-2 spouse/dependent final departure from the US takes place prior to the J-1's final departure from the US. Report this information by emailing [oiie@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:oiie@andrew.cmu.edu).

#### Carnegie Mellon Affiliate Card for spouse/domestic partner and child:

- The Affiliate card allows spouses, partners and children to access CMU's athletic facilities and equipment, campus academic buildings, tickets for athletic events, concerts, films and other activities (as long as they are not limited to students only), and University Libraries borrowing privileges.
- To obtain this card for a spouse, domestic partner or child, a student must be enrolled for the current academic year in a full-time graduate degree program; scholars must be paid by the University and receive benefits. Visiting researchers and scholars not paid by the University who will be here for more than 3 weeks are eligible for a card upon department request.
- The card is valid for one year (or period of stay) and is available through ID Card Services in the HUB, Warner Hall, lower level (412-268-8186).
- Note: The Affiliate Card is not available to family members of scholars who do not receive benefits through CMU's Human Resources office.
- Details can be viewed at: <https://www.cmu.edu/idplus/idcards/sponsored.html>

#### English as a Second Language (ESL) Resources:

The *Intercultural Communication Center (ICC)* offers language training to all non-native English speaking Carnegie Mellon **students**, but NOT to spouses, relatives, or scholars. More information about other organizations in Pittsburgh that offer language training can be found on the following site:

- ICC: [www.cmu.edu/icc/family/index.shtml](http://www.cmu.edu/icc/family/index.shtml)
- Global Pittsburgh: [www.globalpittsburgh.org](http://www.globalpittsburgh.org)
- Allegheny County Center for ESL: <http://cap4kids.org/pittsburgh/959427788/>; 412-281-4494

#### Organizations for Spouses:

- [The Carnegie Mellon International Spouses and Partners Organization \(ISPO\)](https://www.cmu.edu/oiie/families/ispo.html) (<https://www.cmu.edu/oiie/families/ispo.html>) provides opportunities for spouses and partners from different cultural backgrounds to share their cultures, enjoy social activities, and make friends. For more information, call OIE at 412-268-5231.
- [The International Women's Association of Pittsburgh \(WWW.iwap.tk\)](http://www.iwap.tk) offers English conversation classes, international cooking, crafts, and programs about world customs and culture. The group meets at the First United Methodist Church, 5401 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. The group meets at the church because it is a convenient location. This is not a religious organization. For more information, email: [iwap.pittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:iwap.pittsburgh@gmail.com).
- [Global Pittsburgh \(www.globalpittsburgh.org/\)](http://www.globalpittsburgh.org/) is a great resource for newcomers.

#### Social Security Number (SSN) for Your Spouse:

Individuals in F-2, J-2 or H-4 status are not eligible for Social Security numbers (SSNs) in most cases.

Only J-2s who have applied for and been granted work authorization are eligible to apply for an SSN. Please refer to the [OIE handout](#) about applying for an SSN.

#### Driver's License or Pennsylvania State Identification (ID) for Your Spouse:

F-2s, J-2s, and H-4s are eligible to apply for a Pennsylvania driver's license or state ID even without an SSN, as long as there is one year or more remaining on their non-immigrant document. Information about the overall process, forms needed, and next steps can be found on the OIE handout about applying for a driver's license: [www.cmu.edu/oiie/docs/pa-drivers-license.pdf](http://www.cmu.edu/oiie/docs/pa-drivers-license.pdf).

#### Employment Authorization:

Dependents in J-2 status may obtain employment authorization and legally work in the US. Employment authorization must be obtained prior to beginning employment. Applications and instructions are available from OIE. Dependents in F-2, H-4 or TD status may not legally work in the US.

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Global Links**  
412-361-3424 or [www.globallinks.org/get\\_involved/volunteer.php](http://www.globallinks.org/get_involved/volunteer.php)
- **Allegheny County Court Appointed Special Advocates**  
412-594-3606 or [www.pgh-casa.org/](http://www.pgh-casa.org/)
- **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**  
412-622-1015 or <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/donate/volunteer-at-the-library/>
- **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**  
412-622-3359 or [www.carnegiemuseums.org/interior.php?pageID=141](http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/interior.php?pageID=141)
- **American Red Cross**  
412-263-3715 or 888-217-9599 or [www.redcross.org/pa/pittsburgh/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/pa/pittsburgh/volunteer)
- **Allegheny County United Way**  
412-456-6856 or <https://uwsdpa.org/be-a-volunteer/>
- **Pittsburgh Cares**  
412-471-2114 or [www.pittsburghcares.org](http://www.pittsburghcares.org)