WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Only those international students offered an on campus job may apply for a Social Security Number. Students should not apply until they have been in the U.S. for at least two weeks. It takes about three weeks to receive your card after completing the paperwork. To obtain a Social Security Card, you must apply to a Social Security office (see Hayward’s address below) with the following documents:

Social Security Administration (see back for map to Hayward branch and website address)
24301 Southland Drive Ste. 500
Hayward, CA  94545
Phone:  1-800-772-1213  Website:  www.socialsecurity.gov
Office Hours:  9:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday

Bring:
• Passport with I-94 and F-1 visa (okay if the visa is expired)
• If you changed to F-1 status (COS) in the U.S., your COS approval notice with new I-94 proving F-1 status.
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• Letter from your on campus employer stating the title of the position you are being offered as well as a description of the job’s duties
• Letter from the International Student Office verifying you are a full time student

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN A CALIFORNIA DRIVER’S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD

You do not need a California Driver’s License as long as your country’s driver’s license remains valid; however, the State of California requires drivers to have automobile insurance which can be expensive for those with an international driver’s license. Also, it is easier to carry a CA license or ID card instead of your passport.

We strongly suggest you make an advance appointment or you may be there for hours. The Hayward branch is located at:
Department of Motor Vehicles
150 Jackson Street (Corner of Jackson and Soto)
Hayward, CA
Phone:  1-800-777-0133
Website:  www.dmv.ca.gov  (to schedule an appointment online, review sample test and requirements)
Bring proof of legal presence:
Passport with I-94 card and visa (expired okay) or Change of Status documents
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Social Security Card (if you have one/not mandatory to apply)

HOW TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT WITHOUT A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

To open a bank account you usually need a social security number or a TIN (tax identification number). If you are ineligible for a social security number, please advise your banker of this. If you are experiencing problems, show this document to your banker. The banks are used to asking for a SSN or TIN but do have methods of opening accounts for foreign nationals who possess neither. In the past students have opened accounts using their Chabot College school ID number. You may also try to apply for a Taxpayer Identification Number by completing the Internal Revenue Service’s Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. This may be difficult to obtain.