



International Student & Scholar Services  
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## United States Taxes and International Students- FAQs

### *I am not a US citizen, why do I have to pay taxes here?*

Even though you are not a citizen, as a holder of an F-1 or J-1 visa, you are required to report your presence and any earnings to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the time you are studying in the US.

### *I did not work in the US during my time as a student. Do I have to pay taxes?*

If you do not have any earnings to report during the year, you should still file the 8843 form. This form will report to the IRS that while you were present, you did not earn any income.

### *I received a scholarship. Is that taxed?*

Some scholarships and fellowships are not taxed, while some others are. You must look carefully at your scholarship to discover if it will be exempt from taxes. A “qualified” scholarship or fellowship are the kind that cover expenses for tuition, fees, books, and other required academic needs. A “non-qualified” scholarship is the kind that covers room/board, personal expenses, travel stipends and anything else that is not used directly for academics. A non-qualified scholarship is considered taxable income and must be reported.

### *What documents do I need to prepare my taxes?*

To file your taxes you will need to following documents available to you:

Your passport	Your I-20 or DS-2019 document
Your F-1/J-1 visa	Any W2, 1090 or other income reporting form from the University or your employer.
Your I-94 card	Proof of health insurance, as sent to you by your insurance company.

### *How can I easily file my taxes?*

While ISSS does not provide specific or personal tax preparation services, you can use the WINDSTAR tax preparation program specifically for F-1 and J-1 visa holders. This system will help you in a step by step process file for both federal and state income taxes as well as determine if you qualify for any Tax Treaty based on your home country. To receive a personal WINDSTAR access code, please contact ISSS at [iss@umb.edu](mailto:iss@umb.edu)

*Please DO NOT attempt to file your taxes with a system such as Turbo Tax. It is not made for visa holders and may not file your return accurately. If you have further questions after using the WINDSTAR system, ISSS recommends you contact a local accountant to discuss your case.*