



Office of  
International  
Education

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## **Information for Spouses and Families of Carnegie Mellon International Students and Scholars**

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

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

- The Affiliate card allows spouses, partners and children to access Carnegie Mellon'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 and is available through the Card Office, Warner Hall, lower level (412-268-5224).
- 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: [www.cmu.edu/idplus/faq/affiliate.html](http://www.cmu.edu/idplus/faq/affiliate.html)

### • **English as a Second Language (ESL) Resources**

The *Intercultural Communication Center* offers language training to all non-native English speaking Carnegie Mellon **students**, but NOT to spouses, relatives, or scholars. However, information about other organizations in Pittsburgh that offer language training is available on the ICC website at: [www.cmu.edu/icc/family/index.shtml](http://www.cmu.edu/icc/family/index.shtml) and at Global Pittsburgh: [www.globalpittsburgh.org](http://www.globalpittsburgh.org).

Information about two such ESL programs that are free of charge can be found on the following websites:

- Allegheny County Center for ESL:  
[www.aiu3.net/Community.aspx?id=2210](http://www.aiu3.net/Community.aspx?id=2210); 412-281-4494
- Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council:  
[www.gplc.org/](http://www.gplc.org/); Downtown Center: 412-393-7600/ Main Office: 412-661-7323

### • **Organizations for Spouses**

Many spouses and partners become involved in the Carnegie Mellon International Spouses and Partners Organization (ISPO) and the International Women's Association of Pittsburgh.

*The Carnegie Mellon International Spouses and Partners Organization (ISPO)* 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* (<http://www.iwap.tk>) offers English conversation classes, international cooking, crafts, and programs about world customs and culture. The group meets at the First Baptist Church, 159 Bellefield Avenue, in Oakland. (They meet 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).

- **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 a SSN.

- **Driver's License or Pennsylvania State Identification (I.D.) for Your Spouse**

F-2s, J-2s, and H-4s are eligible to apply for a Pennsylvania driver's license or state I.D. even without a Social Security Number, as long as there is one year or more remaining on the non-immigrant documents. A dependent will go to the Social Security Administration to apply for a SSN. The application will be reviewed and denied resulting in a SSN denial letter. Dependents must take this denial letter when they apply for the driver's license or state I.D. Dependents must request a Driver's License Letter from OIE before going to the PENNDOT office. Please refer to the OIE handout about applying for a Driver's License.

- **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**

There are many opportunities to participate in volunteer work:

*Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors*

412-392-4513 or [www.pciv.org/getinvolved.html](http://www.pciv.org/getinvolved.html)

*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 [www.clpgh.org/support/volunteer/](http://www.clpgh.org/support/volunteer/)

*Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh*

412-622-3359 or <http://www.cmoa.org/joinus/volunteers.asp>

*American Red Cross*

412-263-3147 or 888-217-9599 or <http://swpa.redcross.org/index.php?pr=volunteer>

*Allegheny County United Way*

412-255-1155 or [www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org/givehelp.aspx?id=3202](http://www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org/givehelp.aspx?id=3202)

*Pittsburgh Cares*

412-471-2114 or [www.pittsburghcares.org](http://www.pittsburghcares.org)

*Welcome Center for Immigrants and Internationals*

866-774-2201 or [www.wcii.org/](http://www.wcii.org/)