

## **Applying for Your Driver's License and SSN**

One of the first things a new F, M or J nonimmigrant typically wants to do after entering the United States is get a driver's license, or where appropriate an SSN. Like many things however, correct timing is everything. The Student Exchange Visitor Program wants all F, M, or J nonimmigrants eligible for a driver's license or an SSN to have the easiest experience possible. Following these six simple tips makes the process go much smoother and saves a lot of time in the end:

**1. Wait 10 days after you arrive in the United States.** You may want to apply for a driver's license or SSN right away, but be patient. The 10-day wait allows time for all the government databases to update with your arrival information.

**2. Know what you're applying for and if you are eligible.** While you are waiting, talk with your school's designated school official (DSO) or sponsor's responsible officer (RO) or alternate responsible officer. (ARO) to learn more about your state's driving rules and regulations. If you want an SSN, have your DSO or RO/ARO confirm that you are eligible before you apply.

**3. Make sure your record in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is up-to-date and in *Active* status.**