

LINKEDIN GUIDELINES & STRATEGIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

QUICK CHECKLIST FOR VISA, PRIVACY, AND CAREER SUCCESS

Use this checklist to make sure your LinkedIn profile is accurate, safe, and working for you—not against you.

Profile Accuracy

- ✓ My name matches my official documents (or is clearly recognizable)
- ✓ My education (Grinnell College, major, dates) is accurate
- ✓ My location reflects my current status (student is in the U.S.)
- ✓ My profile does NOT suggest unauthorized work
 - ❖ **Quick check:** Would my profile make sense to someone reviewing my visa or CPT?

Experience & Job Titles

- ✓ All experiences are clearly labeled (internship, student project, volunteer)
- ✓ I avoid misleading titles (e.g., “Consultant” if unpaid/student-based)
- ✓ I clarified academic or simulated experiences when needed
- ✓ My descriptions match what I actually did
 - ❖ **Tip:** When in doubt, add “student project” or “academic experience”

Content & Posts

- ✓ My public posts are professional and appropriate
- ✓ I avoid posting anything that could be misunderstood
- ✓ My content aligns with my goals as a student in the U.S.
- ✓ I have reviewed older posts for anything questionable
 - ❖ **Ask yourself:** Would I be comfortable with this being reviewed in a visa or job process?

Scam & Job Safety

- ✓ I verify recruiters and companies before responding
- ✓ I do NOT share personal or financial information via messages
- ✓ I am cautious of “too good to be true” job offers
- ✓ I confirm that opportunities align with my visa work eligibility
 - ❖ **Red flag:** Being asked to move off LinkedIn quickly or share sensitive information

Privacy & Security

- ✓ I reviewed my privacy settings (profile visibility, contact info)
- ✓ I do NOT post sensitive information (passport, visa details, etc.)
- ✓ My contact information is shared thoughtfully
- ✓ I use a strong password and secure my account

Career Strategy (Use it Well!)

- ✓ My headline reflects my interests (not just “Student”)
- ✓ I have connected with classmates, alumni, or professors
- ✓ I am exploring internships and opportunities on LinkedIn
- ✓ I am using LinkedIn to learn – not just scroll

Your LinkedIn is both a career tool and part of your digital identity. Keeping it accurate, professional, and secure helps support your goals. When unsure, connect with the CLS or an adviser before making changes.

Schedule an appointment with the CLS or OISA to review your profile and talk through any questions about internships, CPT, or professional presence.