International Student Life Cycle (F-1/M-1)



Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee

Student must pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee at FMJFee.com.



6

Maintain Status During Program Study

Apply to a Student and

(SEVP)-Certified School

Student applies and is accepted

to an SEVP-certified school.

Exchange Visitor Program

Student must take a full course of study, not work without prior authorization and speak with their DSO if they cannot finish classes before their program end date, or have any other concerns about maintaining lawful status.



2

Arrive in the United States

Receive a Form I-20,

"Certificate of Eligibility for

Nonimmigrant Student Status"

A student's Student and Exchange Visitor

Information System (SEVIS) record is created and the student is then issued a

Form I-20 by the designated school official (DSO) at the SEVP-certified school

they have chosen to attend.

Student arrives no more than 30 days before their program start date and presents their Form I-20 and valid student visa to U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry.



Apply for Student Visa

Student brings their Form I-20 and other required documents to apply for a student visa from the U.S. Department of State.



Work Requirements(F-1 Students Only)

An F-1 student may work only when authorized, including:

- On campus
- Off campus, if financially needed and with authorization from USCIS
- Curricular practical training integral to their program of study
- OPT-related to the student's major and with authorization by USCIS.

2 Explore Post-Graduation Opportunities

A student has the option to transfer schools, change education levels (e.g., undergraduate to graduate), or if eligible, apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) opportunities.



Depart the United States

An F-1 student has 60 days to depart the United States after completion of their program of study or OPT. An M-1 student has 30 days after completion of their program of study to depart.