

Visa Guidelines and Resources

Welcome to the University of Washington Seattle campus! We are very pleased that you have chosen to attend the UW, and we look forward to meeting you.

I-20 Instructions

1. Review & complete the UW International Student Services (ISS) Pre-Arrival Checklist
<http://iss.washington.edu/new-students/pre-arrival>
2. Complete the ISS Online Information Session
<https://catalyst.uw.edu/catalyst/chooser/7f7b581f96601e9805a694f0afad46c8>
3. Review & Complete Post-Arrival Checklist
<http://iss.washington.edu/new-students/post-arrival>
4. Return I-20
If you need to return your I-20, please indicate the reason for returning and send to the address below

Enrollment Requirements

1. Full-Time Enrollment
F-1 students must be registered full-time, regardless of program design. This is defined as 10 or more credits each quarter for graduate students. **Your purpose of coming to the U.S. is to study, not to work.** While the law allows foreign students to work in the U.S. under certain circumstances, employment should be **incidental** to completing your educational program.
2. Tuition and Fees Schedule: <http://opb.washington.edu/content/tuition-and-required-fees>
3. Travel Eligibility
Your I-20 does not require a travel signature for your initial entry into the U.S. Your document for travel and reentry into the U.S. will be signed by your ISS Adviser after have registered for full-time enrollment for your first quarter.
<http://iss.washington.edu/about-us#toc3>
4. Enroll in UW Academic English Program (AEP)
If your English proficiency test score results were below the minimum requirement for exemption, you are required to enroll in AEP courses. Enrollment must begin during your first quarter of registration and must be continued in each succeeding quarter until the sequence of courses are completed.

While you register for courses in your academic program, be reminded AEP courses are your first responsibility and take priority over enrollment in academic courses should a conflict occur. You will need your UW NetID and password to register in AEP. Go to the following website:

<http://aep.washington.edu/aep/howtoreg.asp>

Additional Information for Initial I-20 (New Students)

Students residing outside of the U.S. (except Canada) must obtain a valid passport from their home government where they hold their country of citizenship. To attend the University of Washington Graduate School, you must apply for F-1 student visa status using the Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 issued by UW Graduate Enrollment Management Services.

1. Read Visa Information for New Students

<http://iss.washington.edu/travel/visas>

2. Apply for Visa & Schedule Interview

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html>

3. Arrange Travel

Immigration regulations prohibit students from entering the U.S. ***sooner than 30 days before the course of study start/report date shown on the I-20, which is indicated in Item #5 of the I-20.***

Please consider this date carefully when making travel plans to the United States.

4. Entering the U.S.

The initial I-20 student visa application must be used to enter the U.S. Do not separate any pages of the I-20 student visa application. Your I-20 does not require a travel signature for your *initial* entry into the U.S.

Things to Consider:

- Apply for the visa as early as possible. Please note that interview time slots at the consulate can fill up quickly, especially during the summer months.
- Pay the visa fee via the SEVIS website: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp>
- It is important to demonstrate continuing ties (family, career, property) to your home country. Your visa will be denied unless you satisfy the consular/embassy officer that you will *return home after you complete your studies*.
- Consular officers conduct quick interviews! Their first impression of you is critical to your success. Keep your answers clear and show respect. Take a deep breath and be honest in everything that you say in your interview.
- There is no guarantee of visa issuance. If you are denied a visa, ask what is needed to overcome the refusal. Visa applicants must qualify for the visa according to their own circumstances. Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate handling your case.
- Immigration inspectors may stop you from entering the U.S.
 - You arrive 30 days prior to the course of study start/report date.
 - You arrive after the course of study start/report date.
 - You arrive with invalid or no I-20 and other visa documents.
 - You arrive without a valid F-1 visa stamp in your passport.

Contact the **UW Graduate School** with questions: uwgrad@uw.edu / +1.206.685.2630

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