PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

⚠ We truly appreciate your patience. Please note that e-form processing may take up to 15 business days.
U.S.-based Students & Scholars: Please review OGS' 2025 Travel Recommendations prior to traveling outside of the United States.

OGS (HTTPS://INTERNATIONAL.NORTHEASTERN.EDU/OGS)

NEW STUDENTS ▾

2025 TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS   E-FORMS

▶ **Students Studying in The United States**

F-1 STUDENT VISA PROCESS

CURRENT STUDENTS ▾

The F-1 visa is a nonimmigrant, student visa that enables international students to enter the U.S. to study in full-time degree programs. The F-1 visa is an entry document, and must be valid on the date that you are entering the U.S. Please carefully review the information below to better understand the F-1 visa application process and to prepare for your F-1 visa interview.

APPLYING FOR AN F-1 VISA

For comprehensive information about the F-1 student visa application process, please visit the U.S. Department of State website. (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html)

EMPLOYMENT ▾

Students are encouraged to apply for their F-1 visa as soon as they receive their Northeastern Form I-20. U.S. Embassies or U.S. Consulates are able to issue F-1 entry visas up to 365 days before the program start date listed on your I-20.

In most countries, student visa applicants must appear in person for the visa interview. However, each U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate sets its own interview policies and procedures. Students should consult the specific embassy website or call for application instructions.

> Visit the Website of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions (https://www.usembassy.gov/)

> U.S. Department of State estimated Global Visa Wait Times (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/global-visa-wait-times.html)

The following documents are typically required for the F-1 visa application:

> Online Non-immigrant Visa Application Form (DS-160) confirmation page

  • See below if you do not yet have a local U.S. address

  • For a contact person, you can put the name of the person who signed your I-20. You can find this information under "School Attestation" on your I-20.

> Visa application fee payment receipt (visit the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate website for specific instructions)

> Form I-20 issued by OGS at Northeastern University

> Valid passport (the passport should be valid for at least six months after your date of entry into the U.S.)

> Evidence of financial support (proof of sufficient funds for estimated cost of one academic year)

> Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) I-901 fee payment receipt

> A copy of your acceptance letter to Northeastern University

> One photograph (see the U.S. Department of State website for photo requirements (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/photos.html))

All applicants should be prepared to provide additional information, such as transcripts or diplomas from previously attended institutions, or documents which demonstrate that the applicant intends to return home after their studies. Dependents will receive their own I-20 with their own unique SEVIS ID to apply for the F-2 visa. Dependents are not required to pay the SEVIS fee.

No assurances regarding the issuance of visas can be given in advance. Therefore, final travel plans or the purchase of non-refundable tickets should not be made until a visa has been issued. After the visa has been issued, please be sure the F-1 visa stamp in your passport is accurate and that your original I-20 has been returned to you as you will need to have it in hand when entering the U.S.

Note: Citizens of Canada and Bermuda do not need to apply for an F-1 visa but they are required to have the I-20 and pay the SEVIS I-901 fee before entering the U.S. to study.

U.S. ADDRESS

If you do not have a U.S. address yet for the online non-immigrant visa application form (DS-160), you can use the Northeastern University address and phone number for your specific campus below:

+ **Click here for a list of Northeastern's U.S. Campus Addresses**

THE F-1 VISA INTERVIEW

During your F-1 visa interview or at the Customs Control at the port of entry you may be asked questions about your studies, your university choice, how you are planning to pay for your education, your post-graduation plans, and more. Here are some of the common questions that you may expect.

+ **Most commonly asked F-1 visa interview questions**

+ **10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa**

VISA APPLICATION OUTCOMES

Please note that if you do not receive your F-1 visa prior to the start of your program, you may be advised to defer your admission to a future term.

+ **Approval**

+ **Denials**

+ **Administrative Processing**

EXPEDITED VISA APPOINTMENTS

U.S. Embassies/Consulates overseas may be able to expedite your F-1 visa interview date if your I-20 program start date is within 60 days, and there are no available visa interview slots prior to your start date.

The process to request an expedited F-1 visa interview varies by location. You should refer to the instructions on the website of the Embassy or Consulate Visa Section (https://www.usembassy.gov/) where you will interview, or on their online appointment scheduling site. You will need to provide proof of the need for an earlier appointment (such as your I-20 showing a program start date within 60 days).

Please note: You must _first_ submit the online visa application form (DS-160), pay the application fee, and schedule the first available interview appointment. Only at this point will a consular section consider your request for an expedited appointment.

ENTERING THE U.S.

When preparing for your arrival to the U.S., you should plan your travel according to the information provided by your college. According to immigration regulations, F-1 student visa holders can enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the program report date on the I-20.

Students transferring to Northeastern University in F-1 status from another institution or changing their degree level at Northeastern may stay in the U.S. or travel between programs. And, they may enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the new program start date listed on your I-20.

Documents to Bring When Entering the U.S.

> Valid passport with an official F-1 visa stamp

> Your original I-20 issued by Northeastern University

> I-901 SEVIS fee receipt

> Financial documents

> Admissions letter

At the U.S. port of entry, you will be required to present your passport and I-20 to the immigration officer who will stamp your passport. In most cases, the officer notes "D/S" (Duration of Status) on your passport pages. This means you are allowed to stay in the U.S. for the length of time indicated on your I-20, provided that you maintain full-time enrollment and a valid F-1 visa status.

Ensure your passport is properly stamped before exiting the immigration inspection area. Do not enter the U.S. in visitor status (B-1/B-2, WT, or WB). This status does not permit full-time study in the U.S.

After your arrival, print your Admission (I-94) number at cbp.gov/I94 (https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94) and keep a copy of all travel documents (I-94 information, F-1 visa, and I-20) for your personal records. Ensure your I-94 print out contains the correct information, including F-1 visa status and "Duration of Status."

RELATED ARTICLES:

Paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee
(https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/new-
students/paying-sevis-fee/)

Obtaining I-94
(https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/new-
students/arrival/obtaining-i-94/)

Northeastern University (https://www.northeastern.edu/)

Arlington (https://arlington.northeastern.edu/)   Boston (https://www.northeastern.edu/campuses/boston/)   Burlington (https://www.burlington.northeastern.edu/)   Charlotte (https://charlotte.northeastern.edu/)

London (https://www.nulondon.ac.uk/)   Miami (https://miami.northeastern.edu/)   Nahant (https://csi.northeastern.edu/)   Oakland (https://oakland.northeastern.edu/)   Portland (https://roux.northeastern.edu/)

Seattle (https://seattle.northeastern.edu/)   Silicon Valley (https://siliconvalley.northeastern.edu/)   Toronto (https://toronto.northeastern.edu/)   Vancouver (https://vancouver.northeastern.edu/)

Emergency Information (https://www.northeastern.edu/emergency-information) | Privacy Policy (https://www.northeastern.edu/privacy-information) | Accessibility (https://digital-accessibility.northeastern.edu/) | (https://www.linkedin.com/school/northeas
(https://www.northeastern.edu/emergency-information)   university/)