

2025 TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS E-FORMS

NEW STUDENTS ▼

ARRIVING IN THE U.S.

We're excited for you to join us at Northeastern! This page contains information related to travel dates, recommended steps for successful travel to the U.S. and Northeastern campuses, and other helpful tips upon arrival.

CURRENT STUDENTS ▼

PLANNING YOUR TRAVEL

last updated 07/30/2025

All F-1 and J-1 students are expected to arrive at Northeastern University by the program start date that is listed on their Form I-20/DS-2019 in order to appropriately abide by federal regulations. The program start dates on the Form I-20/DS-2019 are aligned with the [Academic Calendar](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fregistrar.northeastern.edu%2Farticle%2Ffuture-calendars%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cj.hollabaugh%40northeastern.edu%7C209331f060c649eccd5008d9d5f14615%7Ca8eec281aaa34daeac9b9a398b9215e7%7C0%7C0%7C637776054498424561%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTlI6IjEkaWw1LCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C30)
(<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fregistrar.northeastern.edu%2Farticle%2Ffuture-calendars%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cj.hollabaugh%40northeastern.edu%7C209331f060c649eccd5008d9d5f14615%7Ca8eec281aaa34daeac9b9a398b9215e7%7C0%7C0%7C637776054498424561%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTlI6IjEkaWw1LCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C30>)

[00&sdata=gZ%2BwzEk2Xm%2FPwbwGcZEIgQQOPkOSb9%2BLNBxDp3Vi9V4%3D&reserved=0](#)) of the University. Plan on arriving by the first day of the program start date listed on your Form I-20/DS-2019.

Remember: Students can only enter the United States 30 days before the program start date listed on their Form I-20/DS-2019. Students who attempt to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before their program start date may be found inadmissible by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Upon entry to the U.S., you must complete the [Online Immigration Clearance check-in](#) (<https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/new-students/arrival/online-immigration-clearance/>), so OGS can activate your SEVIS record in a timely manner.

Late Arrivals

We recognize that incoming students may experience extenuating circumstances outside of their control that may delay their arrival by a few days. If you find out that you are unable to arrive for the first day of classes, you must submit a late arrival request, if eligible, through the Slate portal.

Please click on the “Late Arrivals” link below for more information.

Information regarding how to submit a late arrival request for Undergraduate and Law students for Fall 2025 will be available soon.

+ Late Arrivals

TRAVELING TO THE U.S.

Please be sure to click each section and item below and carefully read the information. Contact OGS if you have questions about these requirements.

+ Apply for a Visa

- + **Arrange your travel**
- + **Register your travel**
- + **Gather Required Documents**
- + **Research possible restrictions for the duration of your travel**

ARRIVING AT A U.S. PORT OF ENTRY

- + **Primary Inspection**
- + **Secondary Inspection**
- + **Social Media and Electronic Device Searches at a U.S. Port of Entry**

CHECK YOUR I-94 RECORD

The I-94 is an admission record that contains information about your most recent entry to the U.S. It is issued to all international travelers who enters the U.S. (with the exceptions of those who are part of a visa waiver program), and is updated with each entry you make. It contains your basic biographical information, as well as information about your visa status and how long you are allowed to remain in the U.S.

Once you have successfully cleared inspection and entered the US, you should retrieve your electronic I-94 record [here](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home) (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>). Note that it may take a few days after your entry for the record to populate. You should check and save a screenshot of your I-94 record each time you enter the U.S. as the I-94 is the only official evidence of your entry into the U.S.

Please review your I-94 record for accuracy. Two fields you may be unfamiliar with are “Class of Admission” and “Admit Until Date.” These fields should be filled out as follows:

- > **Class of Admission:** matches what is listed on your visa stamp
- > **Admit Until Date:** D/S (This stands for “Duration of Status”)

Visa status other than F-1/J-1 must be corrected immediately (B-1/B-2, WT, or WB status does not permit full-time study in the U.S.)

If anything looks incorrect on your I-94 record, please visit [this page \(https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/getting-started/obtaining-i-94/\)](https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/getting-started/obtaining-i-94/) for more information on how to request a correction.

FORM I-515 OR I-515A

The CBP officer may issue you a Form I-515A if you are missing paperwork, or if they are not able to verify your status. This form allows you temporary entrance into the US for up to 30 days, during which time you must collect and submit the necessary evidence to the government to be able to remain in the US for the duration of your F-1 or J-1 status.

If you receive a Form I-515A, the Office of Global Services (OGS) is happy to provide guidance with your response to the government. Please complete the [Request to Comply with I-515A \(https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/forms-and-guides/request-to-comply-with-i-515a/\)](https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/forms-and-guides/request-to-comply-with-i-515a/) e-form to notify us so that we may best assist.

Note that an I-515A should not have any negative impact on your status as long as you respond in a timely manner. [More information on the form I-515A can be found here \(https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2024/06/new-process-to-submit-form-i-515a-documentation\)](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2024/06/new-process-to-submit-form-i-515a-documentation).

TRAVELING TO CAMPUS FROM THE AIRPORT

+ Public Transportation

+ Ride-Share Apps (such as Uber or Lyft)

TRAVELING TO NORTHEASTERN FOR COMMENCEMENT

International students, who graduated in a previous academic term, but who want to participate in graduate ceremonies at a later date (for example, a student who graduates at the end of the fall academic term wants to participate in graduation ceremonies at the end of the spring academic term), will have a Completed SEVIS record if they did not apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) or continue in a new academic program. This means that your F-1/J-1 visa and I-20/DS-2019 are no longer valid for entry to the U.S. (even if they have a future end date) as you are no longer enrolled in a program of study.

- > **Do not request a travel signature** since you are no longer eligible for this benefit.
- > **Utilize alternate visas for travel** to the U.S. such as a Visitor Visa (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html>) or the Visa Waiver Program (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html>) if you are a citizen of a participating country.

RELATED ARTICLES:

Credit Transfer and Immigration
Implications

(<https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/student-support/global-campuses/canada/credit-transfer-and-immigration-implications/>)

Webinars – Incoming Students

(<https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/new-students/webinars-incoming-students/>)

(<https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/student-support/global-campuses/canada/scams-and-safety/>)

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OGS Service Portal (<https://service.northeastern.edu/ogs>)

Monday-Friday: 8:30a.m.-5:00p.m.
(Note: We are closed on Tuesdays from 3:00pm – 4:00pm for all staff training and meeting).
Phone Hours:
Monday-Friday: 8:30a.m.–4:30p.m. ET



(<https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOGS/>) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrMAnObKFBqnSINjw>)

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/>)
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