

Best Practices for Early Entry Admission: Student I-20 Visa Requests

Dear GPAs,

If your faculty would like international students to arrive a quarter earlier, for successful enrollment, consider the following:

- Is financial ability available for the early entry? Students beginning Summer must demonstrate 12 months of funding.
<http://grad.uw.edu/admissions/understanding-the-application-process/international-applicant-faqs/financial-ability-requirement/>
- If overseas, can the student arrange an interview at a U.S. consulate/embassy in time for the early quarter start? <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html>

Student must have the I-20 Certificate of Eligibility student visa application *form no later than three months before the term start.*

- Can the student secure their flight in time and enter the U.S. before the official start of the first day of the quarter?
- Can the student be enrolled full-time (10 credits minimum), regardless of the program design? International students must be registered full-time, including their first term of enrollment. *Note: this includes Summer quarter and students with ASE appointments.*
- Meet the English proficiency requirement:
<http://grad.uw.edu/policies-procedures/graduate-school-memoranda/memo-8-graduate-school-english-language-proficiency-requirements/>
 - You can refer to the GEMS Webinar on Bridging the Gap for guidance via Admissions, Recruiting and Enrollment: <http://grad.uw.edu/for-faculty-and-staff/gpagpc-resources/>
- Will the student be able to meet the degree verification requirement and submit their official transcript and/or degree statement (date and title of degree awarded) prior to the start of the early entry term?
 - If the degree marked "Verify" will not be conferred before the quarter start, they may require a "No Degree" petition or simply are not eligible for Early Entry. Contact our office with any questions about this requirement.
- If the student is transferring from another U.S. school, can the international student advisor at that school release the student's immigration SEVIS record to the University of Washington Graduate School in time for enrollment?
- If overseas, student must pay for express mail service. Refer to: <https://study.eshipglobal.com/> to create an account and pay for courier mailing. They can track delivery of their student visa documents through this system.

If you have any questions regarding the early entry process for your international graduate students, feel free to contact us. Thank you!