

Form I-20 Instructions

Welcome to the University of Washington Seattle campus! We hope you are excited to join our graduate student community in Seattle and we look forward to meeting you. Enclosed is the Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 you will need for entry to the U.S. as an F-1 international student. Please review this form and information below.

If you have any questions about your documents or next steps to complete, contact the UW Graduate School GEMS Office at uwgrad@uw.edu or +1.206.685.2630.

Next Steps

- 1. Learn** about the F-1 Student Visa Application and interview:
<http://iss.washington.edu/travel-visas/visas>
- 2. Pay** the U.S. Department of Homeland Security SEVIS Fee, and **print** your payment receipt
<https://www.fmjfee.com/>
 - Use the SEVIS ID number and information on the Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 issued by the UW Graduate Enrollment Management Services when you complete your online SEVIS fee Form I-901.
- 3. Apply** for Visa & Schedule Interview:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html>
 - Use the SEVIS ID number and information on the Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 issued by UW Graduate Enrollment Management Services when you complete your visa application.
 - Interview slots at the U.S. consulates fill up quickly, especially in the summer months. Apply as early as possible; F-1 student visas can be issued **up to 120 days** before your program start date.
 - *Canadian citizens are not required to get an F-1 visa from a U.S. consulate, however, Canadian citizens are **required** to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee (view item 2 above). Refer to the following link should you have additional questions:*
<https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/canadian-students/>
- 4. Complete** the UW International Student Services (ISS) Pre-Arrival Checklist:
<http://iss.washington.edu/new-students/pre-arrival>

Your class enrollment is blocked until you earn a passing score on the ISS Online Information Session quiz.
- 5. Review and complete** all steps on your Pre-Registration page:
<https://webapps.grad.uw.edu/applForAdmiss/login.aspx>
 - **Degree Verification:** order your prior school transcript(s) and diploma/degree statement(s) **before** you arrive on the UW campus. Check your Pre-Registration page in your UW application for Final Degree Transcript information and the Graduate School's mailing address.
 - **English Proficiency Requirement:** Submit required documentation to fulfill the English Proficiency Requirement, such as, your official transcript or medium of instruction letter, as soon as you have it available!
<http://grad.uw.edu/policies-procedures/graduate-school-memoranda/memo-8-graduate-school-english-language-proficiency-requirements/>
- 6. Complete U501: Graduate School Orientation**
<http://grad.uw.edu/for-students-and-post-docs/u501-graduate-school-orientation/>
- 7. Get to know** your new campus community!
 - **Core Programs** International Graduate Student Resources: <https://grad.uw.edu/for-students-and-post-docs/core-programs/international-graduate-students/>
 - **FIUTS** New Student Resources: <https://www.fiuts.org/welcome-programs>
- 8. After entering the U.S., complete** the ISS Post-Arrival Checklist and Mandatory Check-In steps:
<http://iss.washington.edu/new-students/post-arrival>

Enrollment and Check-In Requirements

Full-Time Enrollment

- U.S. law requires F-1 students to enroll full-time (10 or more credits) each quarter. Review the UW Academic Calendar for registration dates and work with your graduate program on how to register for classes: <http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/calendar.html>
- Your purpose of coming to the U.S. is to study, not to work. While the law allows international students to work in the U.S. under certain circumstances, employment should be incidental to completing your educational program.

I-20 Cancellation

U.S. law requires new students enroll full-time and complete a check-in process. At the UW, this is an online process. Failure to complete these steps by these deadlines will result in the cancellation of your I-20.

Deadline: Report to campus and submit required documentation by the 1st day of the academic quarter.

Deadline: Enroll full-time (10 credits) by the 10th day of the official start date of the academic quarter.

Choosing not to enroll at the University of Washington: If your plans change, and you will not enroll at the UW, immediately contact uwgrad@uw.edu. This is especially important if you transferred your SEVIS record to the UW from another US university or UW Intensive English Language Program (IELP). Failure to enroll can negatively affect any future U.S. visa applications. Refer to the Graduate School's "Request Form for I-20 Documents", Section 4 for detailed guidance: <https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/understanding-the-application-process/international-applicant-information/admitted-international-graduate-students/>

Additional Information

Review your program's specific tuition rate

Tuition and Fees Schedule: <http://www.washington.edu/opb/tuition-fees/>

All UW I-20 documents contain the *estimated, average* University of Washington Seattle cost of graduate tuition.

If applicable, enroll in UW Academic English Program (AEP)

If your English proficiency test scores were below the Recommended Score to satisfy AEP requirements, you are required to enroll in AEP courses as part of your degree requirements. Enrollment must begin during your first quarter of registration and must be continued in each succeeding quarter until the sequence of courses are completed: <https://www.aep.uw.edu/registration-fees/>

International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP)

Federal and Washington state law require international students maintain adequate health insurance. Each quarter that F-1 students register for classes, they will be automatically enrolled into the mandatory UW ISHIP and charged for student-only coverage. <http://www.washington.edu/ship/international-student-insurance-health-plan/>

Travel Tips

Plan Your Entry Date Carefully

U.S. laws prohibit new students from entering the U.S. more than 30 days before the 'Program Start Date' printed on your I-20. Refer to information on [Admitted International Graduate Students](#)

Entering the United States

Carry your immigration documents with you at all times while traveling. You must show your I-20 and other important documents when you enter the U.S. Do not pack your I-20 or SEVIS Fee receipt in your checked luggage!

Travel Eligibility

Your Form I-20 does not require a travel signature on page 2 for your **initial** entry into the U.S.

- Learn About Travel Signatures: https://iss.washington.edu/travel-visas/travel_signatures/

Entry Denials

Immigration Port of Entry inspectors may stop you from entering the U.S. for various reasons, including:

- You try to enter the United States earlier than 30 days before your start date.
- You do not have your I-20, or your I-20 is in cancelled/terminated status.
- You arrive after classes have started.
- You arrive without a valid F-1 visa stamp in your passport (*Canadians exempt*) or without other travel documents.