

Next Steps after I-20 Issuance

The U.S. Government maintains an excellent resource for F-1 Students. Be sure to visit: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>



1. Check Your I-20

Make sure that all of the details on your I-20 are accurate.

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Start Date



2. Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee

This fee needs to be paid directly to the U.S. Government before your Visa Appointment at the embassy.

For more details visit: www.fmjfee.com/index

TIP: Remember to print a receipt of the transaction, since a receipt will be needed at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate when you request your F-1 visa.



3. Apply for Your F-1 Visa

You must contact the U.S. Embassy/Consulate to schedule your Visa Interview and obtain your F-1 Visa.

To identify the U.S. embassy or consulate that is most convenient for you visit: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>



6. Travel to the U.S.

Make certain you hand carry your required documents for you and any dependents as you enter the U.S. (Do not place in checked baggage).

- Original, signed I-20 for you and any dependents
- Passport that contains your Visa



5. Make Balance Due Payments

Your tuition must be fully paid no later than 28 days prior to your start date.

If you do not pay your balance in time, your enrollment and I-20 are subject to cancellation.



4. Book and Confirm Your Travel

Per U.S. immigration law, you will be allowed to enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start date listed on your I-20.

If possible, we strongly suggest you arrive before your start date and use this time to find housing, open a bank account and otherwise get settled in the U.S. so that you are prepared to begin your studies on the first day.



7. Report to the Kaplan Center On or Before Your First Day

Documents to bring on your 1st day:

- Your I-20, as well as the I-20 for each dependent (if applicable)
- Your Visa, as well as the visa for each dependent (if applicable)
- Your I-94, as well as the I-94 for each dependent (if applicable)
- Your Passport, as well as the passport for each dependent (if applicable)
- Local address, phone #, and email address
- Proof of Health Insurance



8. Begin Your Studies

You've made it! Now it's time to begin your preparation.

TIP: You will need to create and print your I-94 after you enter the U.S.. You can do so by visiting: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/recent-search>



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you experience visa issuance delays and/or any personal circumstances that prevent you from beginning studies by your scheduled start date, please notify us immediately. You will not be able to use the existing I-20 to enter the U.S. after your start date has passed, so we will need to update your I-20 with a new start date, so that you don't have problems at the Port of Entry.