

# F-1 Immigration Checklist

Complete this checklist to secure your visa and obtain the eligibility to enter the United States. Read carefully and complete in order.

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- Obtain admission to the University of Massachusetts (Amherst or Mt. Ida) and request your I-20.
- Check <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students> for Pre-Arrival Information (not an IPO site).

- With your UMass I-20 you can now book your visa appointment at your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate. To do this, follow these steps:

1. **Pay the SEVIS fee (I-901) online.** Go to [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) and select PAY I-901 FEE. Print out the receipt at the end of the transaction and keep a copy for your personal records.
2. **Schedule your visa appointment for a non-immigrant visa.** Find a U.S. Embassy (or Consulate) by going to <http://usembassy.gov>. Fees will apply. **Note:** Visa applications submitted to U.S. embassies located outside of your home country may not be accepted. Contact the U.S. embassy directly for more information.

*Canadian Citizens do not need to apply for a visa. Be prepared with your SEVIS fee receipt, signed DS-2019, and passport at your port of entry.*

- Prepare the following documents to bring to your visa appointment:

- *Your UMass I-20, remember that you must print the I-20 in color and sign the form manually. Only the PDSO/DSO may sign the I-20 electronically.*
- *Valid Passport*
- *UMass Admission Offer or Re-enrollment approval letter.*
- *Financial support documents (the same financial documents used in your I-20 request)*
- *Proof that you have close ties to your country (such as ownership of properties, businesses, etc.)*
- *SEVIS fee receipt*
- *Other documents as requested by the Embassy.*

- Receive your visa.

- *Double check your visa stamp for the F-1 visa classification and verify that your personal information is correct.*

- Passing through Immigration - Travel to the United States for your program!

- *Gather your documents including the original I-20 form and passport with F-1 visa stamp for travel to the U.S. Your visa grants you eligibility to enter the U.S. on the F-1 status. To be safe, also carry-on any financial documentation and the SEVIS fee receipt. **You MUST travel with these documents in your carry-on luggage.***
- *A Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer at the port of entry will review your documents to determine your admissibility to the United States. After several days following your entry, check that your entry has been properly documented under your Most Recent I-94 record: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>.*

*You are allowed to enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the start date on your I-20.*

Questions? Visit our website for more details: [www.umass.edu/ipo/iss](http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss)