

International Student Port of Entry Help Sheet

Upon arrival at the U.S. Port of Entry (POE), you will be interviewed by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent. You must be able to satisfy the requirements of CBP to be admitted to the United States. Documents that you should be able to present will include, but may not be limited to, the following documents:

- A Form I-20, signed by the Designated School Official (DSO), from the school that you will attend.
- An acceptance letter from our college.
- A valid F-1 visa containing the SEVIS ID and the name of the school that you will attend (unless your country is visa exempt).
- Financial documentation as evidence of ability to pay tuition and living expenses (same documentation as presented to Brightpoint and the consular officer).
- A passport that is valid for at least six months beyond your stay here.
- > Proof of payment of the SEVIS I-901 Fee (This was covered in the I-20 Application).

Please have all of these documents readily available for <u>all</u> family members in your group. Failure to have these documents with you may result in a secondary inspection which, if not satisfied, may result in your being denied entrance into the United States.

Please understand that having an F-1 visa placed into your passport during your consular interview does not guarantee your entrance into the United States. Having a U.S. visa allows you to travel to a port of entry, airport or land border crossing, and request permission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspector to enter the United States. While having a visa does not guarantee entry to the United States, it does indicate that a consular officer at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad has determined that you are eligible to seek entry for that specific purpose. Customs and Border Protection is the agency arm of the Department of Homeland Security charged with maintaining the integrity of our borders and it is they who are responsible for the admission of travelers to the United States, for a specified status and period of time. Your cooperative interaction with them will be crucial to being admitted to the United States to study. https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/04/here-to-help-what-to-expect-at-a-port-of-entry-with-a-us-customs-and-border-protection-officer

You may not enter the United States more than 30 days prior to the listed start date of your program as found on the issued I-20.

If, for whatever reason, you are not coming to the United States, as indicated in your statements to us, please notify us immediately that we may have the opportunity to defer your start date to a later time. If you do not notify us in a timely manner, according to the circumstances, your I-20 can be canceled or terminated, in which case you will have to apply all over again. If a deferral is requested, SEVP will determine if your delayed arrival date will allow for you to start within thirty days. If so, SEVP will perform a data fix and your start date will be adjusted. If it is determined that you cannot start within 30 days, you will have 15 days to abandon the United States and, with a newly issued I-20, return the following semester.

After review of the documentation, the Customs and Border Patrol Agent will stamp your Form I-94 which is proof that you entered the United States legally. It will list the allowable length of stay here. Please retain your I-94, as well as all other required documentation, throughout your stay in the United States. Take great care to protect these documents from being lost or stolen.

This school is authorized under Federal Law to enroll non-immigrant alien students.