



BEACON COLLEGE

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Steps for International Students

This contains some excerpts from the following: NAFSA'S International Student Handbook; A Guide to University Study in the U.S.A.; The Visa Processing Guide Process and Procedure at U.S. Consulates and Embassies; and NAFSA Adviser's Manuel 2003.

When to Apply for an F-1 Visa

Visa processing times vary widely by consulate and whether or not a security clearance must be requested. Apply as early as possible. Students may enter the United States no earlier than 30 days before the I-20 report date. For more information visit the [U.S. Department of State](http://www.state.gov), including the [student visas section](#).

Passport Requirements

All travelers, including U.S. citizens, are required to hold a valid passport upon departure from the United States. Any students coming from Canada must have the new e-passport with the new security features.

F-I Visa- International Students

The F-1 Visa category requires the student to demonstrate that his or her stay in the United States will be a temporary one. The Nonimmigrant Visa (NIV) section of a U.S. Consulate is responsible for processing all non-immigrant cases.

- Prior to the U.S. Consulate/Embassy visit, the SEVIS I-901 fee must be paid. Online payment may be made at www.fmjfee.com.
- Apply for the F-1 student visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence.
- The student must be in possession of a passport valid for a minimum of six months from the date of the expiration.
- A consular officer must be satisfied that the prospective applicant for the F-1 visa will depart the United States after finishing studies.
- The F (student) visa requires proof that the student has a residence in a foreign county that he or she has no intention of abandoning. Proof may consist of bank accounts, ownership of property, or evidence of family and familial assets.
- Student must possess a valid SEVIS I-20 properly completed by the Designated School Official (DSO).
- The student must demonstrate that he or she has sufficient funds to meet expenses while studying in the United States.
- The student must demonstrate that he or she is sufficiently fluent in the English language.

Insurance of F-1 Visa

- Once approved, the F-1 visa will be placed by the consular officer in your passport, which will note the validity date and the number of entries.
- SEVIS I-20 and supporting financial documents will be placed in a sealed envelope. **Please do not open this envelope.**

If you encounter any problem obtaining your visa, contact admissions by e-mail : admissions@beaconcollege.edu

SEVIS I-20

The I-20 is a multipurpose government form used in connection with many F-1 procedures and benefits.

- SEVIS I-20 is a three-page government document.
- SEVIS I-20 contains a bar code on the right side of the form and SEVIS student ID number.
- Page 1 contains program and biographical information.
- Page 2 contains instructions to the school and student.
- Page 3 contains spaces for travel authorization.

U.S. Department of Justice
 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Status
 Form I-20 (Rev. 08/01) (Do not write on this form)

Page 1

Please read instructions on Page 2.
 This page must be completed and signed by the U.S. Department of Education.

1. Personal Information

Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): _____
 Date of Birth: _____
 Country of Birth: _____
 Country of Citizenship: _____
 Address: _____

2. School Information

Name of School: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 Website: _____
 SEVIS Institution Code: _____

3. Financial Information

a. Assets (Total): \$ _____
 b. Income (Total): \$ _____
 c. Expenses (Total): \$ _____
 d. Other Deposits (Total): \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

4. Student Information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Date of Birth: _____
 Remarks: _____

5. Student Signature and Date

Name: _____
 Date: _____

Form I-20 (Rev. 08/01) (Do not write on this form)

Student Role in the F-1 Process

- The student signs the Student Certification No. 11 on the SEVIS I-20 form to indicate that he or she has read and understood the terms and conditions of F-1 status.
- The student pursues a full course of study at the school that issued his or her I-20.
- The student follows the proper procedures to transfer schools, change educational levels, or extend his or her program.

Report Date on the SEVIS I-20

F-1 students will be permitted to enter the United States 30 days prior to their report date, which is No. 5 on their SEVIS I-20. Please note that if you enter the United States after the report date, you may encounter difficulty with immigration at the Port of Entry.

Arrival Plans

- Have your travel documents in order and confirm with the Admissions Office your arrival date and your attendance at the Orientation date.
- International students may arrive at Beacon College **one day** before the Orientation date. A copy of the orientation schedule will be provided once a student is accepted.
- Several hotels in the community offer a Beacon College Rate; review and complete the Transportation and Hotel forms that the individual chain requires. For Transportation please visit www.sweetwaterlimo.com and for accommodations prior to arriving at Beacon College please visit www.hiexpress.com/tavaresfl
- Make arrangements to have U.S. currency available upon your arrival to the United States.
- Do not carry large sums of cash; traveler's checks are safer.
- If you wish to ship some of your belongings ahead of time, you may do so **two weeks** prior to the report date. Ship to your name at: Office of Admissions International Program, Beacon College, 105 East Main Street, Leesburg, FL 34748, USA.

Arrival into a U.S. Port of Entry (POE)

The immigration officer at the Port of Entry will request the following forms:

- Passport valid for at least six months.
- F-1 visa, unless exempt from visa requirements as for Canadian citizens. For initial entries, the name of the school on the F-1 visa stamp must match the name of the school on the SEVIS I-20 form.
- SEVIS I-20 properly signed by the DSO and by the student.
- Evidence of financial support, including the same financial support information used to obtain the F-1 visa.
- I-94 card (Arrival/Departure Record), marked with the date and place of entry.
- The immigration officer will stamp "F-1 D/S" in your passport (F-1 visa page), and SEVIS I-20.
- You will be directed to the Customs area for inspection of your luggage.

Admission Number for First F-1 Entry

Immigration uses the pre-printed admission number in the upper left-hand corner of the Form I-94 card. (issued to you from the airlines prior to your arrival) for its arrival/ departure database known as the Nonimmigrant Information System. Using this system along with the SEVIS system, immigration will keep track of the following information:

- Arrival/departures of F-1 students.
- Field of study
- Degree objectives
- Transfers to the other schools
- Permission to work- Curricular Practical Training, Optional Practical Training

I-94 Subsequent Entries

F-1 students are required to surrender Form I-94 upon leaving the United States and will be issued a new Form I-94 card upon their re-entry.

Duration of Status (D/S)

Duration of status refers to the period that a student is pursuing a full course of study at an educational institution approved by immigration.

I-515 Form- Temporary Admission

If the F-1 student appears at the Port of Entry in good faith without a properly completed SEVIS I-20 or properly endorsed SEVIS I-20, but otherwise appears eligible for admission as an F-1 student, the immigration officer may grant the student a 30-day “date certain” admission by issuing the I-515. If you should receive this form, please bring it to the Admissions Office at Beacon College upon your arrival on campus.

Transfer from One SEVIS School to Another SEVIS School within the United States

- F-1 student must notify the International Office at his/her college/university of the intent to transfer to Beacon College.
- F-1 student will need to obtain verification (Transfer Eligibility Form) from his/her current school’s DSO that he/she has been maintaining student status and is eligible for transfer.
- F-1 student’s present school will “Transfer Out” in their SEVIS system.
- F-1 student meets the eligibility criteria and obtains a new SEVIS I-20 from the DSO at the new school.
- DSO at the new school will “Transfer In” the student in their SEVIS system.
- F-1 student must enroll in the new school in the first term after leaving the previous school or the first term after vacation.

Transfer from One SEVIS School to Another SEVIS School by Re-entry from Abroad

- F-1 student must notify the International Office at his/her school of intent to transfer to Beacon College.
- F-1 student will need to obtain verification (Transfer Eligibility Form) from his-her current school's DSO that he/she has been maintaining student status and is eligible for transfer.
- F-1 student's present school will "transfer Out" in their SEVIS system.
- F-1 student meets the eligibility criteria and obtains a new SEVIS I-20 from the DSO at the new school.
- F-1 student presents the SEVIS I-20 from the new school to the immigration officer at the Port of Entry in the United States.
- F-1 student checks in with the DSO at the Admissions Office at Beacon College.