

TRAVELING TO THE U.S. - INFORMATION NEEDED TO ENTER

With your Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility and F-1 student visa, ***you may enter the United States no more than 30 days before the program start date printed on page 1 of the I-20 – Item 5.*** If you attempt to arrive more than 30 days before the program start date, you may be refused entry into the United States.

Always carry your documents with you – do not pack them in your baggage!

Do not check the following documents in your baggage. If your baggage is lost or delayed, you will be unable to present the documents at your port of entry. As a result, you may not be able to enter the United States:

- Your passport, valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected stay;
- SEVIS Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility, and;
- Paper receipt for the SEVIS fee, Form I-797C.

In addition, it is strongly recommended that you carry with you (on the plane) the following documentation:

1. Evidence of financial resources, such as department “Letter of Offer” or sponsor funding;
2. Evidence of student status, such as admission letter, and;
3. Name and contact information of your “Designated School Official & Emergency Contact”:
 - Carol Holz, Associate Director, Immigration Compliance - 907 474-7677
 - 24-hour emergency contact number at UAF: Campus Police - 907 474-7721

WELCOME TO THE U.S. - AS YOU ARRIVE AT THE U.S. PORT OF ENTRY

Proceed to the terminal area for arriving passengers. Have the following documents available for presentation: your passport; SEVIS Form (I-20); and Customs Declaration Form (CF-6059) – this form should be provided to you by airline personnel before your plane lands in the U.S.

All visitors entering the United States must state their reason for wishing to enter the country. You will also be asked to provide information about your final destination. **It is important that you tell the CBP Officer that you will be a student.** Be prepared to include the name and address of the school program where you will enroll/participate (University of Alaska Fairbanks).

The immigration officer at the Port of Entry will look at your passport, identification and visa pages, UAF Form I-20 and perhaps your financial documents. Keep any letters from the university available as they may help to answer the immigration officer’s questions. During the immigration officials’ examination of your documents, you will be digitally photographed and fingerprinted.

Once your inspection is complete, your passport will be stamped and the Customs & Border Protection Officer will annotate the stamp with your immigration status (F-1) and “D/S” which means “Duration of Status”. The officer will update your immigration record in SEVIS. ***Be sure to verify that the correct immigration status is written in your passport before leaving the custom officer’s station. This is very important!***

You will receive an information sheet describing how to access your electronic I-94 arrival/departure record to print a copy for your reference and use as needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECONDARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS:

If the CBP officer at the port of entry cannot initially verify your information or you do not have all of the required documentation, you may be directed to an interview area known as "secondary inspection." Secondary inspection allows inspectors to conduct additional research in order to verify information without causing delays for other arriving passengers.

The inspector will first attempt to verify your status by using the Student and Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS). In the event that the CBP Officer needs to verify information with your school or program, they will ask you for the name and telephone number of the international student advisor at your school. In the event you arrive during non-business hours (evening, weekends, holidays), you should provide the emergency or non-business hour phone number available:

24-hour emergency contact number at UAF: Campus Police - 907 474-7721

The UAF Campus Police will be able to contact Carol Holz or one of the other international student advisors at any time if it is necessary.

Failure to comply with U.S. government entry-exit procedures may result in your being denied entry to the United States. Under certain circumstances, the CBP officer may issue a "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor" Form (I-515A), which authorizes temporary admission into the United States. If you receive the I-515A entry, bring it to our office without delay.