



Important Information Regarding Your UM Form I-20

1 Review your UM I-20 Form

Enclosed is your UM I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Non-Immigrant F-1 Student Status). You will use your UM I-20 to apply for an F-1 Visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate before traveling to the U.S. to begin your studies. Be sure to have your UM I-20 with you when entering the U.S. Review your UM I-20 form now and contact International Student and Scholar Services at iss@miami.edu immediately if there are any errors.

2 Pay the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) I-901 fee

Pay the mandatory, one-time SEVIS I-901 fee online at fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp. Print a copy of your SEVIS fee payment receipt and have it with you when applying for your F-1 Visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate and when entering the U.S.

3 Apply for an F-1 Visa

Apply for an F-1 Visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country. For more information regarding visa application requirements or to schedule a visa interview, visit travel.state.gov. Due to greater scrutiny for visa applicants at U.S. consular offices, you should begin the visa application process as soon as possible.

Note: Citizens of Canada and Bermuda are exempt from applying for a visa, but must present their valid passport, UM I-20, and SEVIS fee payment receipt at their port-of-entry to the U.S., and will hold F-1 status in the U.S. during their studies at UM.

4 Plan a date to enter the U.S.

Plan to enter the U.S. with your F-1 Visa and UM I-20 up to (but no earlier than) 30 days before the start date indicated on your UM I-20. You should plan to arrive in Miami no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2018. (Residential College move-in for undergraduate international students with housing assignments is January 10).

Note: Students changing educational level (e.g., Intensive English Program at UM to Bachelor's program at UM) and students transferring from another U.S. school (item 3 on UM I-20 states "Transfer pending from...") are not subject to the 30-day arrival limitation and may re-enter the U.S. at any time with a valid F-1 Visa and UM I-20. Also, under these circumstances, students are not required to obtain a new F-1 Visa if traveling and re-entering the U.S., provided the current F-1 Visa is still valid, and are not required to pay the SEVIS fee again.

5 Familiarize yourself with U.S. entry procedures

International students who plan to enter the U.S. on an F-1 Visa should familiarize themselves with U.S. entry procedures prior to arrival. When traveling to the U.S., you should carry your original UM I-20 along with your passport, student visa, and I-901 SEVIS fee receipt. Do not put these documents into your checked baggage! Present your documents to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer at the U.S. port-of-entry. You may arrive no earlier than 30 days before the start date listed on your UM I-20.