



A GUIDE TO STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES

Congratulations on your decision to study in the United States – a very rewarding and life-changing experience awaits you!

When you are accepted to an SEVP-certified school, your school has sent you a document called a Form I-20. The Form I-20 is a paper record of your information in our database called SEVIS. Each school that accepts you will mail you a Form I-20. Before you apply for your visa, you must select one school's Form I-20.

Check your Form I-20 against your passport information to make sure that your name and date of birth (DOB) are correctly listed and spelled. If it is not correct, contact the school official who sent you the Form I-20.

Once you have your Form I-20, you are ready for the next step – paying your I-901 SEVIS Fee.

Paying Your SEVIS Fee

The I-901 SEVIS Fee is required for all F and M students as well as J exchange visitors. Paying your I-901 SEVIS Fee is very important. Without this fee, you will not be eligible to apply for a visa. Make sure your Form I-20 information matches that on your I-901 SEVIS Fee form.

FMJfee.com – This is the website to pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee.

Travel to the United States

After paying the I-901 fee and getting a receipt, you can apply for a visa at any American embassy or consulate before you leave for the United States.

You have 30 days to enter the country before your official program start date, which is registered in SEVIS by an official at your school. You must report to your school by your program start date, or you are not maintaining your status. We suggest that you contact your school immediately once you enter the country so that there is no question of your arrival.

For additional information about the International Admissions process, please contact Adeana Meadows at meadowsa@hocking.edu or (740) 753-7122 or visit www.hocking.edu.



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Helpful Links

Below is a helpful links that further explains some of the nuances of studying in the United States:

Homeland Security: Studying in the States

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/guide-to-studying-in-the-states

Form I-20

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students-and-the-form-i-20

Designated School Officials (DSOs)

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2014/04/students-what-is-a-dso

About Paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/paying-the-i-901-sevis-fee

Paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee

FMJfee.com

Applying for a VISA

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/applying-for-a-visa-to-travel-to-the-united-states

U.S. Embassy Finder

www.usembassy.gov

Maintaining Status

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/maintaining-status

Duration of Status

studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/03/what-is-my-duration-of-status