



## A.3 - Travel Tips and Arrival

**F-1 Academic Students** enter the United States to pursue a full-time course of study at one of several types of approved academic institutions in the U.S., You will be entering to attend The College of the Florida Keys in Key West, Florida.

### ADVANCE PREPARATION BEFORE ENTRY

#### Departure Tips:

Careful planning and preparation can ensure that the delays one may experience based on The established procedure is minimal. Following is a list of important steps you should take:

- Before leaving your country, confirm that your passport and nonimmigrant visa are still valid for entry into the U.S. The passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected stay.
- Check to see that your visa accurately reflects your correct visa classification.
- If the visa states the name of the institution you will attend, verify that this information is accurate as well. If your review indicates any discrepancies or potential problems, visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to obtain a new visa.
- Students entering the U.S. for the first time under their nonimmigrant visa classification may only be admitted up to 30-days before the program start date.
- When you receive your U.S. nonimmigrant visa at the Embassy or Consulate in your country, the consular officer will seal your immigration documents in an envelope and attach them to your passport. You should not open this envelope! The Customs and Border Protection Officer at the U.S. port-of-entry will open the envelope.
- When you travel, you should carry some specific documents on your person. Do **NOT** check them in your baggage! If your baggage is lost or delayed, you will not be able to show the documents to the Customs and Border Protection Officer and, as a result, may not be able to enter the U.S.

Documents **you should carry** on your person:

- Passport (including the attached envelope of immigration documents) with nonimmigrant F-1 student visa.
- SEVIS Form I-20

- Carry a pen so that you are prepared to sign documents.
- Be prepared to show federal officials the following:
  - Evidence of financial resources.
  - Evidence of Student status (recent tuition receipts, transcripts).
  - Name and contact information of your Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) at your intended school or program.

## ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

Like all entering visitors, you will be asked to state the reason you wish to enter the U.S. You will also be asked to provide information about your final destination. You must tell the CBP Officer that you will be a student.

Be prepared to include the name and address of the school where you will study.

### By Aircraft:

If you are traveling by aircraft, the flight attendants on board will distribute CF-6059 Customs Declaration Forms and Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record for immigration, before you land at your initial point-of-entry in the U.S. Complete these forms while you are on the aircraft and submit them to the appropriate Customs and Border Protection Officer upon your arrival. **If you do not understand a form, ask the flight attendant for assistance.**

Upon arrival at the port-of-entry, proceed to the terminal area for arriving passengers for inspection. As you approach the inspection station, ensure that you are ready to present:

- Passport – open it to the page that displays your F-1 visa
- SEVIS Form I-20
- Completed Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record reflecting the address where you will reside (not the address of the college)
- CF-6059 Customs Declaration Form

### By land or designated seaport:

If you are entering through land or designated seaport, the Customs and Border Protection Officer will provide the necessary CF-6059, Customs Declaration Form, and Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record at the port-of-entry. If you do not understand a form, ask the CBP Officer for assistance.

### Finalizing your inspection:

Once your inspection is complete, the inspecting officer will:

- Stamp your SEVIS Form for the duration of status “D/S” for F visa holders and “F1” for student status. **Make sure that you obtain these two designations annotated on your stamp.**
- Stamp the Form I-94 and staple it in the passport.
- Return the SEVIS I-20 Form.

## **SECONDARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS**

If the inspector cannot automatically verify your information or you do not have all of the required documentation, you may be escorted to an interview area known as “secondary inspection.”

Secondary inspection allows inspectors to conduct additional research to verify the information. Verifications are done apart from the primary inspection lines so that an individual case will not cause delays for other arriving passengers.

It is recommended that you have readily available the name and phone number of the International Student Advisor at your school in case your admission needs to be verified.

Failure to provide proper documentation and to comply with entry/exit procedures is a cause to refuse the student admission into the United States.

In limited circumstances, if a student is mostly, but not fully in compliance, he/she may be issued a Form I-515A, Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor. This form authorizes temporary admission for 30 days into the U.S and requires the student to take immediate action to submit proper documentation. Non-compliance with the directions contained on these forms can result in future adverse action.