

F-1 Immigration Checklist

Complete this checklist in order to secure your visa and obtain the eligibility to enter into the United States.
Read carefully and complete in order.

☒ Accepted to UMass Amherst and receive your I-20

- Check <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students> for Pre-Arrival Information (not an IPO site).

☐ Now that you have your UMass Amherst I-20, you are able to make an appointment for a visa interview at the U.S. Embassy. To do this, follow these steps:

1. **Pay the SEVIS fee (I-901) online.** Go to www.fmjfee.com and select PAY I-901 FEE. Be sure to print out the receipt at the end of the transaction.
2. **Make your visa appointment.** Find a U.S. embassy or consulate by going to <http://usembassy.gov> then schedule a visa appointment for a non-immigrant visa. Fees apply.

***Note:** Visa applications submitted to U.S. embassies located outside of your home country may not be accepted. Contact the U.S. embassy directly for more information.*

Canadian Citizens: You do not need to apply for a visa. Have your SEVIS fee, I-20, and passport at port of entry.

☐ Prepare the following documents to bring to your visa appointment:

- Signed UMass Amherst I-20
- Valid Passport
- UMass Amherst Admission Letter
- Financial support documents (I.e. bank statement or an assistantship offer letter)
- Proof that you have close ties to your country (such as ownership of properties, businesses, etc.)
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Other documents as requested

☐ Review your visa stamp after approval

- Double check your visa stamp for correct status and verify that your personal information is correct

☐ Passing through Immigration - Travel to the United States for your program!

- Gather your documents including the original I-20 and passport with F-1 visa stamp for travel to the U.S. **You MUST travel with these documents in your carry-on luggage.** Your visa grants you eligibility to enter the U.S. on the F-1 status. To be safe, also carry-on any financial documentation and the SEVIS fee receipt.
- A Customs and Border Protection (CPB) Officer at the port of entry will review your documents. You will receive an entry stamp in your passport. Make sure that the stamp indicates that you are on a F-1 visa.

***Note:** You are allowed to enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the start date on your I-20.*

Questions? Visit the International Programs Office Website for more details:
www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/degree-program