

Documents Required to Enter the U.S.A.

F-1 visa students must provide the following documents when entering the country:

Passport

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry.

F-1 Visa

With the exception of Canadian citizens, all students entering the U.S. must have a valid F-1 visa in their passport. If you are a transfer student with a signature on page 3 of your Transfer Pending I-20 form, you must still have a valid visa to be granted entry.

Although you may have a valid F-1 visa in your passport from a previous time studying in the U.S., if you have been out of the country for more than 5 months, you are required to renew your F-1 visa at an embassy or consular post before travelling to the United States.

Initial I-20 Form or Transfer Pending I-20 Form

If you are a new F-1 visa student entering the U.S. for the first time, or if you have not attended school in the U.S. for more than 5 months, you will have an Initial I-20 form. It is valid as long as you enter the country on or before the program start date listed on your I-20 form.

The Initial I-20 form used to enter the U.S. must be the same one used to apply for the F-1 visa. If you use a different Initial I-20 form, the school name listed on the I-20 form will not match the one noted on the F-1 visa, and you may not be allowed to enter the country. If you decide to attend a different school before entering the United States, you must go back to the embassy or consulate that issued your visa and request an updated visa.

If you are a transfer student, you should have a Transfer Pending I-20 form from Seattle Colleges with a signature on page 3. If you have the Transfer Pending I-20 form from Seattle Colleges, do not use I-20 forms from previous schools. They are no longer valid.

You may also be a transfer student whose SEVIS record was terminated or completed by your previous school. If you are outside of the United States, Seattle Colleges will have issued you an Initial I-20 form on a new SEVIS record.

For more details, review the transfer applicant tab on our [admission requirements](#) webpage.