

What you should know about entering the United States as an F-1 Student

The embassy will give you an envelope containing your Form I-20 A-B and financial documents to present to the Immigration Inspector at the U.S. port of entry. During your air travel to the U.S., you will be given an Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94) to fill out. The number on the Form I-94 will become your "admission number," a special immigration identification number which you will use as long as you are a non-immigrant in the U.S.

When you arrive at U.S. Immigration inspection, give your passport, envelope from the embassy, and completed I-94 to the **inspector**.

The inspector will:

1. Write your admission number on your Form I-20 A-B and visa page of your passport.
2. Stamp both pages of your Form I-20 A-B and visa page of your passport.
3. Separate the Form I-20 A-B and I-94, sending the I-20 "school" portion and I-94 "Arrival" record to the Immigration Service where information is recorded about your entry into the U.S.
4. Give you the Form I-20 ID (Student Copy) and staple the I-94 "Departure" record onto the page of your passport opposite the visa stamp.

Important: If you notice that the inspector does not do all of these things, please bring this to his or her attention, or report it to FCSL as soon as you arrive. Your I-20 ID, passport, and Form I-94 are legal documents and must be kept in a safe place. It is wise to make photocopies of them in case they are lost or stolen. Never throw away any I-20 ID even if you transfer schools. It is your legal record of your stay in the U.S. as an F-1 student.