

How to prepare for travel outside of the U.S.

Before you leave the U.S. to travel abroad, the DSO must sign your I-20. Failure to get a travel signature on your I-20 will not guarantee you re-entrance into the U.S. or may cause significant delays in secondary inspection at the airport. If the DSO needs to FedEx a signed I-20 to you after you leave the country, expect to pay \$50-\$150 in shipping costs. You must also be registered full-time for the upcoming semester before your I-20 will be signed for travel.

To avoid issues with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), be sure to hand-carry these items at the port of entry upon your return to the U.S.:

Required:

- Valid passport (valid 6 months into the future)
- Valid F-1 visa
- I-20 signed for travel
- Proof of financial support for tuition expenses and living costs

Recommended:

- Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester (enrollment verification)
- Proof of I-901 SEVIS fee
- Transcript of previous coursework
- DSO name and contact information

If any of your information cannot be verified, then you may be placed in secondary inspection until CBP can research the necessary information. In addition, you may be issued an I-515A, "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor" in which you have 30 days to submit the missing information to SEVP.