



Study in the United States

Summary sheet: SEVP, I-20, SEVIS, F-1 / M-1 visa, CBP

Educational France-USA-Net.Com document. Verify DHS, Department of State, USCIS and CBP official sources on the date you act.

1. Guide purpose

Administrative path for F-1 and M-1 students, with J-1 noted when the project is an exchange program.

2. F-1, M-1 and J-1

F-1 covers academic study, M-1 vocational training, J-1 exchange programs through designated sponsors.

3. SEVP-certified school

Verify the school in School Search before paying. Only certified schools may issue Form I-20.

4. Form I-20 and DSO

The I-20 anchors the SEVIS record. The DSO monitors status, advises and signs certain documents.

5. I-901 SEVIS fee

Paid on the official site after the I-20 and before the visa appointment unless an official exception applies.

6. DS-160 and visa application

DS-160 is the nonimmigrant visa application. Fees and appointments depend on the consular post.

7. Consular interview

Prepare academic plan, funding, level, ties outside the United States and file consistency.

8. CBP entry and I-94

Respect the arrival window. CBP decides admission and the I-94 must be checked after entry.

9. Maintain status

Full course load, current address, no unauthorized work and DSO contact before any change.

10. Authorized work

Campus work, CPT, OPT and STEM OPT require conditions, documents and sometimes USCIS authorization.

11. Transfer and I-539

Coordinate transfer, level change or extension before the program end date.

12. Travel

Verify passport, visa, active SEVIS record and DSO travel signature before leaving the United States.

13. Health and housing

Check health insurance, housing, vaccinations, fees and campus resources.

14. Applying from France

Follow U.S. Embassy in France instructions and verify timing and documents.

15. Forms and systems

Document	Purpose	Agency
Form I-20	F/M eligibility and SEVIS record	SEVP / school
I-901 SEVIS	SEVIS fee before visa	DHS
DS-160	Nonimmigrant visa application	Department of State
I-94	Admission and status	CBP
I-765	EAD for OPT	USCIS
I-539	Change or extension of status	USCIS

16. Administrative summary

Step	Check
1	SEVP school and admission
2	I-20 and funding evidence
3	I-901, DS-160 and interview
4	CBP, I-94 and status maintenance

Informational document only. Verify official websites on the date you act. This document is not legal advice.