

what it takes to pass the
HARDEST ENTRANCE EXAM
in the world

START

It's no easy feat studying in the United States if you're from another country. Follow the path that foreign students must take to earn an education in the U.S.

Foreign students apply to a U.S. college or university.

Foreign students must meet all of the school's qualifications and standards for admission.

STOP

U.S. institutions must be certified by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to accept foreign students.

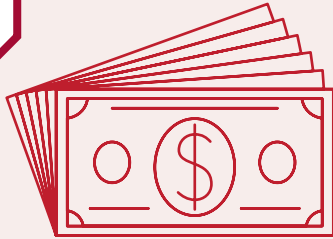
Upon admission, a SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) record is created for each student for DHS (Department of Homeland Security) to begin tracking.



Visa applications undergo additional security checks.

Additional clearances depend on the outcome of initial security checks, country of origin, and/or field of study.

STOP



Foreign students must prove both that they have sufficient funds and that they will leave the U.S. after their studies.



International students must appear for an in-person visa application interview.

Students must bring the school's Form I-20, and several other required documents, to the U.S. consulate.



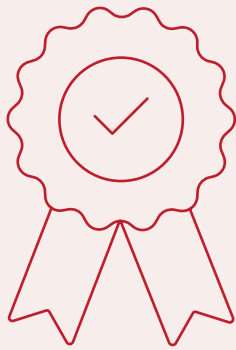
Foreign students must apply for an F-1 visa to enter the United States.

A foreign student must complete the visa application, pay the mandatory student tracking fee, and all other required visa fees.

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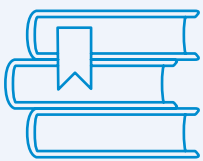
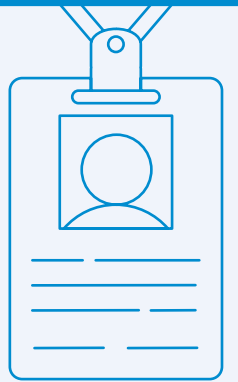
Security checks must be resolved before a consular officer can issue a visa.

Security checks can take a long time; if delays are prolonged, foreign students may not wait for decision and choose to study elsewhere (Canada, Australia, China, Europe).



Additional screening and tracking occur at U.S. port of entry.

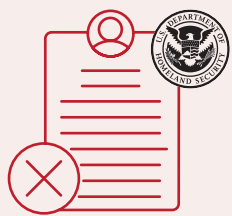
If approved for a visa, an international student travels to a port of entry. Upon arrival, a Customs and Border Protection officer checks security databases after reviewing the student's identity and documents.



Foreign students are tracked continuously while in the U.S.

Students must take a full course of study, not work without authorization, and report any changes of area of study and address.

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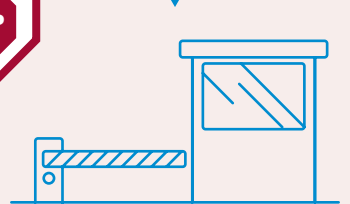
When a school becomes aware of an international student's status violation, it terminates the student's SEVIS record. ICE can follow up.



Foreign students must report to the U.S. school upon arrival.

The school registers the student's arrival and U.S. address in SEVIS to continue tracking the student.

STOP



U.S. Customs and Border Protection will further vet. They can deny entry to anyone whose documents, data, or responses raise red flags.

STOP



If an international student uses a school's Form I-20 to enter the U.S. but does not report, the school terminates the student's SEVIS record as a "no-show." ICE can follow up.

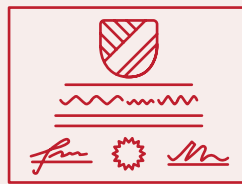


Foreign students must have approval to reenter the U.S. after traveling abroad.

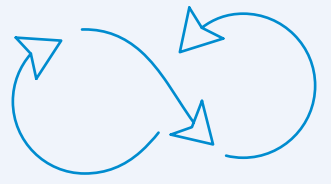
The school must verify the student's SEVIS record before endorsing the student's Form I-20 with a "travel signature."



STOP



If the international student's visa expires and the student travels abroad, the student must renew the visa at a U.S. consulate before returning to the United States.



Security vetting is ongoing and thorough.

New information is continuously added to U.S. screening databases and is checked against United States government databases.



The U.S. Benefits from International Students Who Pass the Hardest Entrance Exam in the World

The student visa program is **SECURE**. International students, scholars, and exchange visitors are **THOROUGHLY VETTED** and are the **only visa categories tracked** during their stay in the country. International students and scholars are an **asset** to the United States. They bring billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs to local communities. International students and scholars **create** American jobs, **drive** research, **enrich** our classrooms, **strengthen** national security, and **serve** as America's best ambassadors and allies.