

Obtaining a Visa to Study in the United States

It is recommended that this process is started as soon as possible. Once you obtain your I-20 form, you should apply for your F-1 visa as soon as possible. Some applications require additional administrative processing that can add several weeks to the process. The Graziadio School of Business and Management cannot do anything to expedite the process. Obtaining the F-1 visa is the student's responsibility. Students entering with an F-1 visa cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 calendar days before the program start date printed on your Form I-20. It is recommended that travel arrangements are not made until after you receive your visa.

Obtaining the Form I-20

- Go to www.pepperdine.edu/internationalstudents and click on OISS Forms
- Under "New Student," click on I-20 Checklist
- Compile the documents listed under "All Graduate Schools" and e-mail them to OISSNewGraduateStudent@pepperdine.edu

Paying SEVIS I-901 Fee

- This fee must be paid before applying for a visa. More information regarding this fee can be found here: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.htm>
- Payments may be made at this site: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/desktop/index.jsp?view=desktop>
- Make sure to print the payment confirmation as some officials may request to see it.

Obtaining the F-1 student visa in your passport

- Follow the steps required to apply for a student visa at <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html>

U.S. Port of Entry immigration process upon arrival

- It's important that you keep your Pepperdine admissions letter, I-20, passport, student visa, I-901 receipt of SEVIS fee, and financial documentation in your carry-on luggage. Do not put it in your check-in luggage, as you will need to give it to the Customs and Border Protection officer when you arrive at the airport.
- Print your Admission (I-94) Number Retrieval Form at <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions> and keep it with your permanent records.

Reporting your arrival to the Office of International Student Services (OISS) to activate your SEVIS Record

- Go to www.pepperdine.edu/internationalstudents and click on OISS Forms
- Under "On-Campus Arrival/Check-in" click on On-Campus Arrival Checklist.
- Compile the documents listed under "All Graduate Schools" and e-mail them to OISSNewGraduateStudent@pepperdine.edu