



# Admitted International Students

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
School of Professional Studies

*Congratulations on your admission  
to an M.S. degree program  
at Columbia, and welcome from  
the staff at the ISSO!*



# Agenda

Immigration

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Campus Resources

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NYC Transportation

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Registration Requirements

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Q&A

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# Immigration

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# International Student Scholars Office (ISSO)

International House North  
524 Riverside Drive, Street Level

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212-854-3587

[newintlstudent@columbia.edu](mailto:newintlstudent@columbia.edu)



# Things to Consider Before Your Arrival

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1. What is F-1 status? What is SEVIS?
2. Applying for a visa
3. Arriving at a U.S. Port of Entry
4. Reporting your arrival to activate your SEVIS record
5. Maintaining F-1 Status
6. Returning from a trip abroad during your program



# ISSO Information

You must apply for and obtain a Columbia I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Status) which is required as part of an F-1 visa application at a U.S. consulate or to transfer your F-1 SEVIS record to Columbia from another U.S. university.

# ISSO Information

U.S. immigration law does not provide a visa status that permits part-time studies. International students on in F-1 student immigration status must be enrolled full-time, defined as 12 credit points at Columbia.



# I-20 (Certification of Eligibility for F-1 Status)

Students admitted to a fulltime program of study apply to the ISSO for this document at <http://isso.columbia.edu>

You will see that a complete application for an I-20 consists of an online application PLUS supporting documentation comprised of:

- a copy of your letter of admission
- a copy of the identification page of your passport
- documents showing that you have enough funds available now for the first year of your program for the amount indicated on the chart.

All of the documentation should be scanned as one pdf that you will email to [issodocs@columbia.edu](mailto:issodocs@columbia.edu)

Your I-20 application will be in a queue with more than 3200 other new international student applicants. It may **take up to 3-4 weeks** to process your complete application, depending on how many applications are ahead of yours.



# I-20 (Certification of Eligibility for F-1 Status)

You need the I-20 **BEFORE** you make a VISA appointment. The I-20 is required when applying for F-1 entry visa from U.S. consulate. The appointment wait time and the visa processing time varies for the all the different U.S. embassies and consulates, so check for information specific to the post at which you will apply at

<https://usvisa-info.com/static/niv-landing.html>

You should **NOT** buy a plane ticket **UNTIL** you have obtained the F-1 entry visa in your passport.

When making travel plans, keep in mind that you may not enter the U.S. in F-1 status more than 30 days in advance of the start date of the term, printed on your I-20.

The I-20 is required at port of entry for admission in F-1 status when arriving in the U.S.



# Citizens of Canada and Bermuda

While the F-1 Visa is not required for citizens of Canada and Bermuda, you still must submit an application for the I-20 Document.

SEVIS ID: N0004705512

<b>SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME</b> Doe Smith	<b>GIVEN NAME</b> John	<b>CLASS</b>  <b>F-1</b>  <b>ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE</b>
<b>PREFERRED NAME</b> John Doe-Smith	<b>PASSPORT NAME</b>	
<b>COUNTRY OF BIRTH</b> UNITED KINGDOM	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> UNITED KINGDOM	
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b> 01 JANUARY 1980	<b>ADMISSION NUMBER</b>	
<b>FORM ISSUE REASON</b> INITIAL ATTENDANCE	<b>LEGACY NAME</b> John Doe-Smith	

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

<b>SCHOOL NAME</b> SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies	<b>SCHOOL ADDRESS</b> 9002 Nancy Lane, Ft. Washington, MD 20744
<b>SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL</b> Helene Robertson PDSO	<b>SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE</b> BAL214F4444000 03 APRIL 2015

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b> DOCTORATE	<b>MAJOR 1</b> Economics, General 45.0601	<b>MAJOR 2</b> None 00.0000
<b>NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH</b> 72 Months	<b>PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY</b> Required	<b>ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES</b> Student is proficient
<b>PROGRAM START DATE</b> 01 SEPTEMBER 2015	<b>PROGRAM END DATE</b> 31 MAY 2021	

**FINANCIALS**

ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 23,000	Personal Funds	\$ 3,000
Living Expenses	\$ 6,000	Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship	\$ 29,000
Expenses of Dependents (1)	\$ 3,000	Funds From Another Source	\$
Other	\$	On-Campus Employment	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 32,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 32,000</b>

**REMARKS**

Orientation begins 8/25/2015. Please report to ISSS upon arrival.

**SCHOOL ATTESTATION**

I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>DATE ISSUED</b> 21 April 2015	<b>PLACE ISSUED</b> Ft. Washington, MD
<b>SIGNATURE OF:</b> Helene Robertson, PDSO		

**STUDENT ATTESTATION**

I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>SIGNATURE OF:</b> John Doe Smith	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
<b>ADDRESS (city/state or province/country)</b>	<b>DATE</b>



# SEVIS

SEVIS – Student & Exchange Visitor Information System

Government database that contains information on:

- F-1 students
- J-1 exchange students
- F-2 and J-2 dependents

Accessible to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Consulates and Universities

- Collects, maintains and tracks information pertaining to international students and J-1 exchange visitors
- F-1 and J-1 forms are processed through SEVIS

Updates are made to your SEVIS record throughout your program, including arrivals and departures, your enrollment status each term and authorized employment. First essential update is having your SEVIS record activated by the ISSO after you report your arrival with the online form.



# Documentation Required at Port of Entry

Carry these items with you and *not* in your luggage:

1. Passport
2. I-20
3. Proof of SEVIS payment.
4. Financial documents
5. Columbia's acceptance letter



# US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

## Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

- CBP officer will process your admission to the U.S.
- Have your passport open to F-1 visa page.
- The officer should stamp your passport with admission in “F-1 status” until “D/S”. D/S means “duration of status.”
- Your duration of status covers the period of time needed to complete your program as indicated on your I-20—unless you finish earlier—plus an additional 60-day grace period after the completion date in item 5 of your I-20.

# Electronic I-94 Admission Record

1. A day or two after arrival check to see that you have been admitted correctly in F-1 status.
2. Follow instructions at [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94)
3. Print out a copy for your personal records each time you arrive in the U.S. during your academic program.

# SEVIS Arrival Report Form

All Columbia International students must report their arrival to the ISSO within one week with the online form linked below:

<http://tinyurl.com/issocheckin>

The ISSO uses this information to update and activate your SEVIS record.



# Very Important!

If you do not do this in a timely manner, your SEVIS record will automatically cancel out as a “no show”, meaning someone who entered the U.S. in F-1 status with an I-20 but did not report to the university.

*This can cause significant problems for all future visits and visa applications.*



# Maintaining F-1 Status

- Be enrolled fulltime every term (limited exceptions)
- Work only with authorization! In your first academic year in F-1 status, you may work on-campus up to 20 hours/wk. After the first year, may be eligible to apply for Practical Training (employment related to your field of study).

# Full-time Enrollment Exceptions

- All exceptions require ISSO approval in advance!
- Final term exception: In your final term, you are not required to take more than you need to complete degree requirements. For example, if you are enrolled in a 30-credit master's program and you take 12 credits in each of the first 2 terms, in the final term you are permitted to register for the 6 remaining credits you need to graduate.



# Full-time Enrollment Requirement and Exceptions

## First term exceptions

Occasionally, a student may be eligible for a reduced course load because of academic adjustment in the first term. Students must seek advisement from their Academic Advisor in conjunction with the ISSO to qualify.

# Full-time Enrollment Requirement and Exceptions

DO NOT DROP BELOW full-time registration status unless you have approval from the ISSO based on your academic advisor's recommendation.

# Returning from a Trip Abroad During your Program

## YOU NEED TO HAVE:

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- A passport valid until at least 6 months into the future from the date of return unless waived from that requirement. *See Question 2B of [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel/faq\\_f2.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel/faq_f2.htm)*

# Useful Websites

EducationUSA Pre-departure Orientations

<https://www.educationusa.info/students-orientations.php>

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DHS (Department of Homeland Security)  
website for International Students

[studyinthestates.dhs.gov](http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov)

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/>

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/>

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Coming to Columbia:

Essential Information for New International Students

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/isso/incoming/>



# Benefits



# Additional Resources

## Writing Center

[bit.ly/cuwritingcenter](https://bit.ly/cuwritingcenter)

45 minute sessions

Workshops & writing groups



# Clubs

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Cycling Team

Ballroom Dance

glee club

**Peace by Peace**

Amnesty International

ROCK CLIMBING

*Hiking*

*Tennis*

Intramural Sports

CU UNICEF

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And many more!

[bit.ly/cuclubs](http://bit.ly/cuclubs)



# Fitness Center



Full gym | Running track | Pool  
Fitness classes | Personal training

# Passport to New York



*Free entry to 34 NYC  
museums and discounts  
at participating restaurants*

For more information,  
go to [cuarts.com](http://cuarts.com)

# Off-Campus Housing Assistance (OCHA)

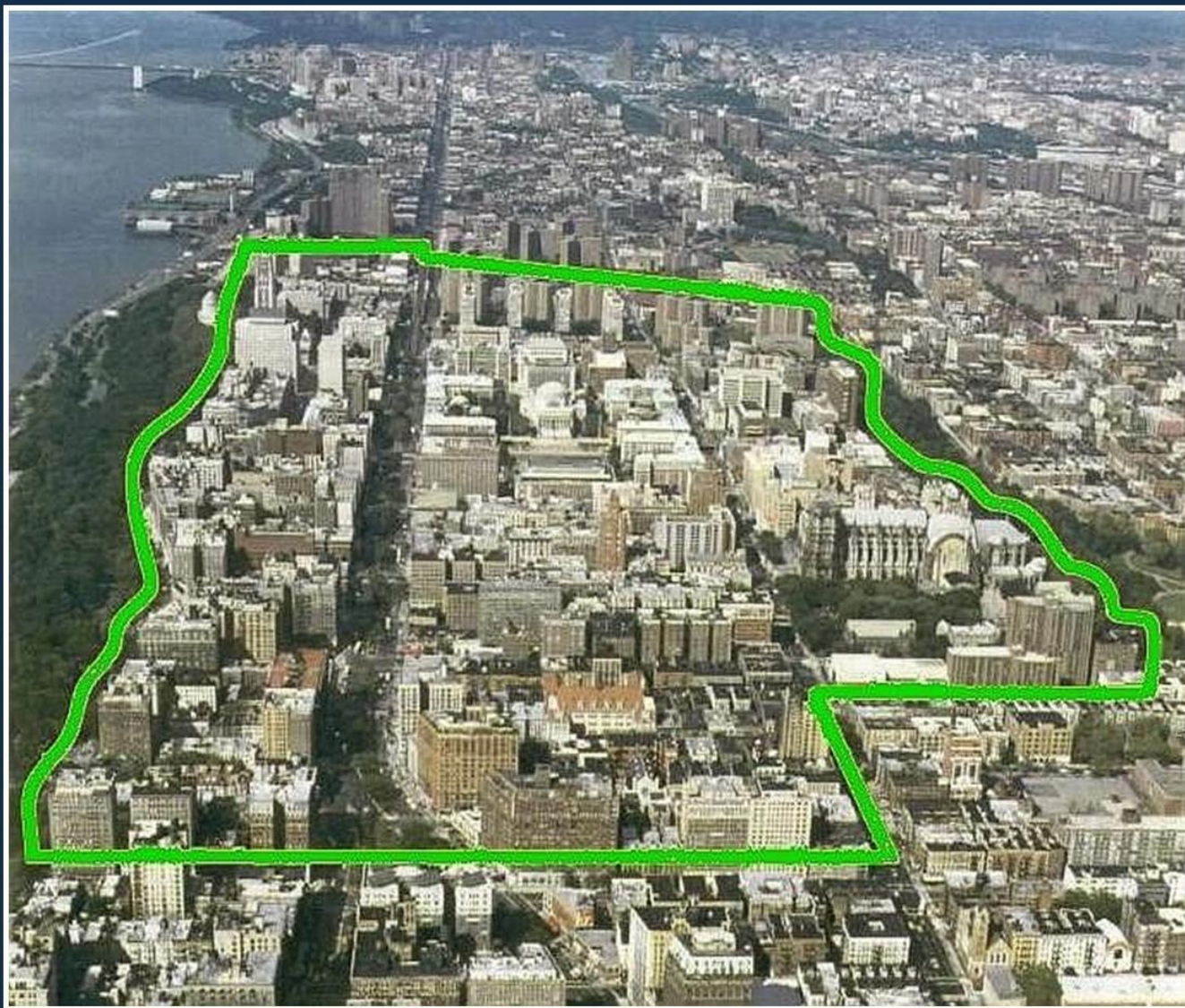
OCHA manages a database known as the Housing Registry which includes available rooms and apartments in non-Columbia-owned buildings and sublets of units in Columbia-managed housing.

Prospective roommates can also post and search profiles on this site.

In addition, OCHA offers one-on-one housing search counseling and is supported in these efforts by our cooperative relationships with two New York City real estate/relocation agencies.











Single Ride

\$2.75

OR

Unlimited  
Bus/Subway

\$116 - Monthly

\$30 - Weekly

The MTA charges a \$1.00  
"new card fee" for the  
purchase of a new MetroCard







Yellow Cabs  
Available all over Manhattan



Green Cabs  
Available above 110<sup>th</sup> street  
and in the outer boroughs

## Signs on Cabs



Drivers are *not* permitted to refuse passengers with more than one stop

A taxicab driver is *required* to drive a passenger to any destination in the five boroughs

# From the Airport to Manhattan

Take a taxi from the taxi stand outside the terminal ONLY.

You must add toll & tip to fares.

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John F Kennedy	<i>\$52 flat fare.</i>
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La Guardia	<i>Metered fare, plus tolls.</i>
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Newark	<i>Metered fare, plus a \$17.50 surcharge and all tolls.</i>
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# From the Airport to Manhattan

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## Shuttle \$15–30

*[tinyurl.com/lgashuttle](https://tinyurl.com/lgashuttle)*

*[tinyurl.com/ewrshuttle](https://tinyurl.com/ewrshuttle)*

*[tinyurl.com/jfkshuttle](https://tinyurl.com/jfkshuttle)*

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## Public Transportation

John F Kennedy - \$13.00

*Airtrain to Jamaica Station then LIRR to Penn Station.*

La Guardia - \$2.75

*Take the M60 Bus to 125th Street and transfer to subway.*

Newark - \$12.50

*Airtrain to NJ Transit train to Penn Station.*

# Registration Requirements

## Immunization

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella

Meningococcal Meningitis

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*[health.columbia.edu/about/immunization-requirements](http://health.columbia.edu/about/immunization-requirements)*



# Contact Information

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ISSO	212-854-3587 <a href="mailto:newintlstudent@columbia.edu">newintlstudent@columbia.edu</a>
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Admissions Office	212-854-9666 <a href="mailto:sps-inquire@columbia.edu">sps-inquire@columbia.edu</a>
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Student Support	212-854-9666 <a href="mailto:spssupport@columbia.edu">spssupport@columbia.edu</a>
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