

Frequently Asked Questions

We ask that you use this Frequently Asked Questions and the pre-arrival information section to help you with your inquiries before your arrival at DePauw University. Further details will be provided through email communication from the International Student Services office.

I have been accepted! What do I do now?

The “I-20 Certificate of Eligibility” immigration form, needed to obtain a student visa, is not issued until the applicant has (1) been officially accepted by DePauw University, (2) paid the enrollment fee, and (3) submitted a financial statement indicating how expenses will be met while attending the University.

Acceptable, original bank statements must be received before the I-20 can be issued.

Regulations of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) require that all students on F-1 visas MUST pursue a full course of study at all times. This means students must be enrolled as full time students (3.0 DePauw credits) at all times. For additional information, contact the International Student Services office at 765-658-4850.

When will I get my I-20 certificate of eligibility?

There are several steps involved in processing the I-20 form. Once ISS receives the completed International Student admission documents that include:

- completed Common Application
- original financial supporting documents
- TOEFL and SAT scores, if applicable
- passport copy that includes biographical information
- birth certificate copy

Upon receipt, we will process the I-20 form and send it to you at the address indicated on the Common Application form. Our goal is to process the I-20 form within 4 weeks of receiving ALL necessary information from the student and the Admission office.

The I-20 form will be sent to you with instructions on how to pay the [SEVIS fee](#), applying for the F-1 visa, and orientation information. Do not make your visa appointment until you receive your I-20 or SEVIS ID number.

How will ISS send the I-20 certificate of eligibility to me?

International students will receive I-20 certificates of eligibility by FedEx mail. Students will then receive automated emails from fedex.com with a notation of the SEVIS ID number and tracking details when the package is shipped out.

What is acceptable proof of financial support?

Supporting financial documents must be: **1)** in English, **2)** original documentation (no copies, faxes or scans), **3)** dated less than 6 months old, and **4)** clearly state the name of the account holder and the amount of

funding available in US dollar equivalent.

You may have multiple sponsors. Each sponsor must provide a signed Affidavit of Support noting the amount of money they will provide for each year of support and provide original documentation of their financial resources.

Some banks do not provide statements with a US dollar value. In this case, the currency being used must be clearly indicated. The International Student Services office will use an internet conversion site to determine the approximate value of the balance.

I am currently in a school in the US. What should I do?

Are you currently in F-1 student status? If yes, you **must** submit a [“Transfer in Form”](#) and request that the Designated School Official (DSO) of your current school ‘release’ your SEVIS record to DePauw University. The release date must be on or after the date on which you complete your academic requirements for that program.

The I-20 will be processed on or shortly after the ‘release’ date and sent to you. Be sure to indicate an address where you will be after the release date, not your school address.

I have another visa status. Do I need to change status? What should I do?

If you are currently in some other legal status (such as B-2, F-2, J-2, or H-4), and intend to obtain F-1 status you should submit the required forms necessary to issue an I-20. You will receive information regarding changing your immigration status with the I-20 form.

You may also wish to call the International Student Services office at 765-658-4850 to set up a phone appointment to discuss your goals and legal status issues with an international student advisor.

I need a Social Security Number to get a cell phone, utility services, etc.

Social Security Numbers (SSN) are not required to obtain cell phones or utility services. However, if you do not have a SSN you will likely have to follow additional procedures, such as paying a large deposit.

Applying for a Social Security Card

International students who have been offered either on-campus or off-campus employment may apply for a Social Security Number. If you do not have a job or job offer, you cannot apply for a Social Security Number. International students must **wait two full weeks** from their date of entry into the U.S. before applying for a Social Security Number with the Social Security Administration (SSA). The closest Social Security Administration office is located in [Crawfordsville, Indiana.](#)

The SSA requires that international students requesting a Social Security Number verify their identity, visa status and employment during the application process. International Student Services assists student as they apply for Social Security Numbers.

My name in my passport is not the way I want it on the I-20. What should I do?

The Department of Homeland Security requires that the name on the I-20 must match the name on the passport. Therefore, The International Student Services will issue the I-20 to match the name exactly as it is noted on the passport.

In all cases, all official documents and records in the US should be the same, specifically passport, I-20 form, social security card, and driver’s license.

The admission number is not listed on my new I-20.

The Admission Number is not a required field on the I-20 and therefore is not entered in the SEVIS database.

The International Student Advisor did not sign page 3 of my I-20? What do I do?

This is not an error. Page 3 of your I-20 MUST be endorsed by the International Student Advisor before you travel abroad. Please make sure you schedule an appointment with an International Student Advisor before traveling outside the United States.

I'm filling out the US Department of State Nonimmigrant Visa Application DS-160. I need to provide the address of where I will stay in the US and the name and telephone number of the person I will be staying with. I don't have my on-campus address. What should I do?

At item 24 you should enter the address of the international Student Services office, which can be found in our main website. Item 25 is not required as it is for those entering for tourism or business.

Can you expedite the processing of my I-20 because I made my visa appointment already?

The International Student Services will issue approximately 100 I-20s for new students this fall. We realize how important this document is to each of our new students, and we process and ship them as quickly as possible.