F-1 Non-Immigrant Student
Form I-20: Instructions and Information

Important new development: Before setting an appointment with the consulate you must pay the SEVIS fee using the I-901 (enclosed). You may make the payment via credit card on the internet at www.FMJfee.com or send your I-901 to the address provided in the instructions.

How to acquire a U.S. Entry Visa: Arrange an interview with the United States Embassy in your country. Once you have set the appointment you will need the following documents to present to the consulate:

1. Valid passport.
2. Original I-20 from Montana State University.
3. Original admission letter to Montana State University
4. Proof of financial support

Other issues:
- You may enter the United States 30 days prior to your program start date BUT no sooner!
- Financial support for the entire school year is absolutely important.

When you arrive at the Port of Entry in the United States you will have to present:
1. Original I-20
2. Passport
3. I-94 - Departure Record Card (you fill this card out during your flight)
4. Any other document the officer may ask for (i.e. admission letter)

When you arrive at Montana State University:
1. You must visit our office at 400 Culbertson Hall [this may be done any time during the first few days after arrival] Office hours are 8:00 -5:00 p.m.
2. Bring all your official documents [Passport, I-20, I-94]

You must safeguard your original Form I-20 and maintain your passport valid always. They are your official documents authorizing your presence on U.S. soil. The I-94 card [should be stapled to your passport in the page opposite of your visa] is kept until you are ready to depart from the United States. Leaving the U.S. cannot be processed unless an I-94 card is provided at the time of departure. If you still have questions regarding any of the requirements please feel free to e-mail me at chiolero@montana.edu.
J-1 Visiting Professors and Research Scholars
Form DS-2019: Instructions and Information

Important new development: Before setting an appointment with the consulate you must pay the SEVIS fee using the I-901 (enclosed). You may make the payment via credit card on the internet at www.FMJfee.com or send your I-901 to the address provided in the instructions.

How to acquire a U.S. Entry Visa: Arrange an interview with the United States Embassy in your country. Once you have set the appointment you will need the following documents to present to the consulate:

1. Valid passport.
2. Original DS-2019 from Montana State University.
3. Original invitation letter from Montana State University stating the purpose of your visit
4. Proof of financial support

Other issues:
- You may enter the United States 30 days prior to your program start date BUT no sooner!
- Personal insurance coverage is required while participating in a Montana State University sponsored program. Please review the yellow sheet for more information.

When you arrive at the Port of Entry in the United States you will have to present:
1. Original DS-2019
2. Passport
3. I-94 - Departure Record Card (you fill this card out during your flight)
4. Any other document the officer may ask for (i.e. invitation letter)

When you arrive at Montana State University:
1. You must visit our office at 400 Culbertson Hall [this may be done any time during the first few days after arrival] Office hours are 8:00 -5:00 p.m.
2. Bring all your official documents [Passport, DS-2019, I-94]
3. Proof of insurance

You must safeguard your original DS-2019 and maintain your passport valid always. They are your official documents authorizing your presence on U.S. soil. The I-94 card [should be stapled to your passport in the page opposite of your visa] is kept until you are ready to depart from the United States. Leaving the U.S. cannot be processed unless an I-94 card is provided at the time of departure. If you still have questions regarding any of the requirements please feel free to e-mail me at chiolero@montana.edu
TYPE OR PRINT IN BLUE OR BLACK INK

1. Last Name (Surname):

2. First Name (Given Name):

3. Middle Name:

WHERE DO YOU WANT YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT TO BE SENT?

4. Street Address /P.O. Box: 

5. City (Province):

6. State (U.S. Address Only):

7. Country:

8. Zip Code/Postal Code:

9. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):

10. Gender (Check one): Male:  Female:

11. City (Province) of Birth:

12. Country of Birth:

13. Country of Citizenship:

14. School Code (I-20) (F/M nonimmigrant only): 

15. SEVIS Identification Number:

16. Program Number (DS-2019) (J-1 nonimmigrant only):

17. Amount to be paid:
   A. F/M only: ($100)   B. J-1 only: Indicate your Exchange Visitor Category (Check only one of the following boxes)

   Student ($100)   Trainee ($100)   Teacher ($100)   Professor ($100)   Alien Physician ($100)   Government Visitor ($100)

   Research Scholar ($100)   Short-term scholar ($100)   Specialist ($100)   Camp Counselor ($35)   Summer Work/Travel ($35)   Au Pair ($35)

18. Return Receipt:  A. Air Mail ($0)   B. Expedited Delivery ($30)   Telephone:

19. Total amount (add total from 17 and 18):$
INSTRUCTIONS

This form is used to pay the fee to support the F, M, and J nonimmigrant reporting system authorized by Public Law 104-208, Subtitle D, Section 641. If you are subject to this fee and do not pay it, you will not be issued an F, M, or J nonimmigrant visa or be admitted to the United States. If you are in the United States and apply for a change of status, you are subject to this fee. If you do not pay it, your application will not be processed.

Fee payment is required if the applicant is:

a. An alien seeking an F-1, F-3, J-1, M-1, or M-3 visa from an embassy or consulate abroad for initial attendance at a school approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or for initial participation in an exchange visitor program designated by the Department of State (DOS). There is an exception noted below in section j.

b. An alien who does not need a visa to enter the United States as a student or exchange visitor, who will be applying for admission at a U.S. port-of-entry to begin initial attendance at a DHS-approved school or initial participation in a DOS-designated exchange visitor program except as specified in section j below.

c. An alien in the United States seeking a change of status to F-1, F-3, J-1, M-1, or M-3. There are exceptions noted below in sections j and n.

d. A nonimmigrant who was initially granted J-1 status as a participant in an exchange visitor program sponsored by the Federal government, as specified in section j below, and who is now transferring to another J program in the same category that is not sponsored by the Federal government.

e. A J-1 nonimmigrant who is applying for a change of category from within the United States. There is an exception noted below in section j.

f. A J-1 nonimmigrant who is applying for a reinstatement after a substantive violation, or who has been out of program status for longer than 120 days but less than 270 days during the course of his or her program. There is an exception noted below in section j.

g. An F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrant applying for reinstatement of student status, who has been out of student status for a period exceeding the presumptive ineligibility requirement set forth in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16)(A) or 214.2(m)(16)(A).

h. An F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrant who has been absent from the United States for a period exceeding 5 months, was not working towards completion of curriculum in authorized overseas study, and now wishes to re-enter for a new F or M program of study in the United States.

i. An F-2, J-2, or M-2 dependent.

j. A J-1 participant in an exchange visitor program sponsored by the Federal government. A program sponsored by the Federal government is identified by a program number of G-1, G-2, or G-3.

k. An F-1, F-3, J-1, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrant who has previously paid the fee, or whose Form I-20 or DS-2019 for initial attendance was issued on or before August 31, 2004, and who is applying for a visa to return to the United States as a continuing student or a continuing participant of an exchange visitor program.

l. An F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrant transferring between approved schools, changing educational levels, or applying for post-completion practical training.

m. A J-1 nonimmigrant transferring between programs in the same exchange visitor category where no differential fee exists.

n. A nonimmigrant applying for a change of classification from within the United States between F-1 and F-3 status or between M-1 and M-3 status.

o. An F-1, F-3, J-1, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrant requesting/applying for an extension of stay in a single program.

p. An alien reapplying for a visa from an embassy or consulate abroad after having paid the SEVIS fee for a previous F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3 visa that was denied, and who is applying again for the same type of program within 12 months of the initial denial.

q. An alien reapplying for a visa from an embassy or consulate after having paid the SEVIS fee for a previous J-1 visa that was denied, and who is applying again for the same type J-1 exchange visitor category within 12 months of the initial denial, unless there is a fee differential.

r. A nonimmigrant who has applied for a change of status in the United States to an F, M, or J classification, had the initial application for the change of status denied for a reason other than failure to pay the SEVIS fee, and is applying for a motion to re-open the case within 12 months of the original denial.

Documents needed to fill out this form:

- **F-1, F-3, M-1, and M-3 status only**: Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status) issued to you by the DHS-approved school you will attend.

- **J-1 status only**: Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor [J-1] Status) issued to you by the designated exchange visitor program in which you will participate.