F-1 Pre-Arrival and Post-Arrival Checklist

*The information below is subject to change

This checklist is meant to help F1 students prepare for their arrival in San Francisco and academic program at SF State.

**Pre-Arrival**

- Review your I-20 document when you receive it. Check that all the information is correct (spelling of your name, your birth date, program dates, etc.).
- Before you leave for the United States, familiarize yourself with the different kinds of documents you might need: passport, I-20 and F-1 visa. It is always a good idea to carry your original documents with you at all times during your trip to the U.S. Do not put them in your checked baggage.
- It is also a good idea to make at least two sets of copies (paper or digital) of these documents: one copy to leave with your family before you depart and one copy for yourselves. Get a plastic or paper folder to keep your paper documents organized.
- Pay SEVIS fee: [http://www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
- Apply for a F-1 student visa. The order of the visa application and how you complete them may vary by U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Locate your local U.S. consulate visa interview: [http://www.usembassy.gov/](http://www.usembassy.gov/).
- Arrange travel to U.S. You can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before your I-20 “Program Start Date”.
- Contact the Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) - San Francisco State University is dedicated to ensure that all aspects of campus life, learning, working and living - are universally accessible. If you anticipate needing accommodations as a student at SF State we recommend you contact the DPRC: [https://access.sfsu.edu/content/register-dprc](https://access.sfsu.edu/content/register-dprc)
- Plan your finances. Check SF State Bursar’s website to learn how to make tuition payment: [https://bursar.sfsu.edu/](https://bursar.sfsu.edu/). Talk to your local bank about getting travelers’ checks, money transfers, etc.
- Make temporary housing arrangements for when you first arrive in San Francisco and research long term housing options: [http://housing.sfsu.edu/](http://housing.sfsu.edu/). If you want to live on campus apply for Housing as soon as possible. **Please note that on-campus housing is limited and tends to fill up quickly.**
- Plan the transportation (Airport shuttle, Taxi, or shared ride services...etc) from the airport to your local U.S. housing: [http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/tofrom/transp-serv/](http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/tofrom/transp-serv/)
- Get a health check-up – physical, dental, eye exam etc. Make sure you have any prescriptions written down and doctor’s instructions, if necessary.
□ Review the *Ten Steps to Enroll* and clear your registration holds.
□ Purchase SF State health insurance: [http://oip.sfsu.edu/f1insurance](http://oip.sfsu.edu/f1insurance).
□ Research Student Life at SF State (Student organizations, etc.). Visit: [http://www.sfsu.edu/~lead/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~lead/) Accept Admissions Offer (AAO) at SF State Online Student Center: [https://gateway.sfsu.edu/](https://gateway.sfsu.edu/)
□ Research the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Post-arrival**

□ Find permanent housing.
□ Explore mobile phone choices.
□ Research banking choices.
□ Update your local U.S. address and phone number: [http://oip.sfsu.edu/f1/current/maintain/address](http://oip.sfsu.edu/f1/current/maintain/address) and emergency contact [http://oip.sfsu.edu/f1/current/maintain/emergency](http://oip.sfsu.edu/f1/current/maintain/emergency) at SF State online Student Center.
□ Submit missing final official transcripts to Undergraduate International Admissions Office or Division of Graduate Studies.
□ Research public transportation (know how to get to SF State) at [http://www.511.org/](http://www.511.org/)
□ Obtain SF State student ID card (OneCard/Gator Pass): [https://onecard.sfsu.edu/](https://onecard.sfsu.edu/)
□ Attend the International Student Orientation and Welcome Days (Fall only)