



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: <https://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: <https://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>
- Plan your finances. Check SF State Bursar's website to learn how to make tuition payment: <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/>. 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/>
- 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://oiip.sfsu.edu/f1insurance>
- Research Student Life at SF State (Student organizations, etc.). Visit <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sicc>
- Accept Admissions Offer (AAO) at SF State Online Student Center: <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://oiip.sfsu.edu/f1/current/maintain/address> and emergency contact <http://oiip.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/>
- Obtain SF State student ID card (OneCard/Gator Pass): <https://onecard.sfsu.edu/>
- Attend the International Student Orientation and Welcome Days (Fall only)