



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

- Obtain access to SF State Gateway at <http://www.sfsu.edu/login.htm> and create an SF State e-mail account
- Carefully read the Mandatory International Student Orientation information located at <http://oip.sfsu.edu/orientation>
- 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.)
- Create a folder for all your important documents – make extra copies of all your immigration documents
- Pay SEVIS fee: <http://www.fmjfee.com>
- Locate your local U.S. consulate; schedule an appointment for a visa interview: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>
- Arrange travel to U.S. Plan to arrive **at least one week before** the I-20 start date
- Plan your finances (check with your bank about travelers' checks, money transfers, etc.)
- Research the San Francisco Bay Area and buy a San Francisco guidebook
- Make temporary housing arrangements for when you first arrive in San Francisco and research long term housing options: <http://sfstatehousing.sfsu.edu/> . If you want to live on campus apply for Housing at <http://sfstatehousing.sfsu.edu/content/apply-campus-student-housing> as soon as possible. Please note that on-campus housing is limited and tends to fill up quickly.
- Arrange for travel from 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
- Undergraduate Students:** If you are required to take ELM and EPT placement tests, sign up and pay at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm>.
- Undergraduate Students:** Undergraduate students are required to attend the Academic Advising during the Mandatory International Student Orientation. Advanced Registration for the Academic Advising is required. Follow instruction at http://oip.sfsu.edu/new_international_student
- Research Student Life at SF State (Student organizations, etc.). Visit: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~lead/>



Post-arrival

- Find permanent housing
- Update your local U.S. address and Emergency Contact at My SF State Gateway
- Explore mobile phone choices
- Research banking choices
- Research public transportation (know how to get to SF State) at <http://www.511.org/>
- Attend the Mandatory International Student Orientation
- Obtain SF State ID