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 My SF State Gateway at [https://idp.sfsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword](https://idp.sfsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword) and create an SF State e-mail account at [https://www.sfsu.edu/online/sfsuemail.htm](https://www.sfsu.edu/online/sfsuemail.htm)
- Carefully read the orientation information located at [http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm](http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm)
- 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.fmijfee.com](http://www.fmijfee.com)
- Arrange travel to U.S. Plan to arrive at least one week before the first day of orientation
- 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://www.sfsu.edu/~housing/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~housing/). If you want to live on campus apply for Housing at [http://www.sfsu.edu/~housing/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~housing/) as soon as possible. Please note that on-campus housing is limited and tends to fill up quickly.
- 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 *Everything you need to do - 10 steps to enroll* and clear your registration holds at My SF State Gateway: [https://idp.sfsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword](https://idp.sfsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword)
  - Review SF State immunization requirements – obtain the necessary documentation from your doctor: [https://sites.sfsu.edu/shs/Immunizations_FAQ.html](https://sites.sfsu.edu/shs/Immunizations_FAQ.html)
  - Verify SF State health insurance requirements: [https://sites.sfsu.edu/shs/Health_Insurance.html](https://sites.sfsu.edu/shs/Health_Insurance.html)
  - Pay fees and tuition in full: see University fees and tuition breakdown, payment deadline, payment method and instruction at [http://www.sfsu.edu/~bursar/index.html](http://www.sfsu.edu/~bursar/index.html)
- Sign up and pay for placement tests at [http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm](http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm)
- Research Student Life at SF State (Student organizations, etc.). Visit: [http://www.sfsu.edu/~lead/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~lead/)

**Post-arrival**

- Locate permanent housing and update your local U.S. address at My SF State Gateway: [https://idp.sfsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword](https://idp.sfsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword)
- Explore mobile phone choices
- Research banking choices
- Research public transportation (know how to get to SF State) at [http://www.511.org/](http://www.511.org/)
- Attend the Mandatory International Student Orientation (see information at [http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm](http://www.sfsu.edu/~oip/orient.htm))
- Obtain SF State ID (After paying tuition and fees in full, bring your passport to One Stop at Student Services Building)