



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs): Initial Attendance Enrollment

STEP 1: You are accepted to Wentworth Institute of Technology

STEP 2: Receive the Initial Attendance Form I-20

STEP 3: Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee with your I-20

STEP 4: Make an appointment for a U.S. F-1 Student visa (visit your U.S. Embassy/ Consulate website for more information)

STEP 5: After receiving your F-1 Student visa, travel to the U.S. no more than 30 days before your I-20 program start date.

Important: When you receive your I-20, we recommend that you read the entire document to ensure there are no errors and that you understand the rules and regulations associated with your I-20.

What is a Form I-20 and why is it important?

The Form I-20, also called a "Certificate of Eligibility", confirms that a non-immigrant has been admitted to a U.S. School that is approved by the U.S government to enroll non-immigrants. It is the supporting document needed to obtain the F-1 student visa.

What is a non-immigrant visa?

A non-immigrant visa is an immigration document that permits a citizen of a foreign country to enter the U.S. for a temporary period of time. It also determines what a non-immigrant is allowed to do while in the U.S. If your primary purpose for entering the U.S. is to study, it is in your best interest to get an F-1 Student visa. For more information about obtaining a U.S. visa, please visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>

How do I get an F-1 visa?

You should first apply to Wentworth Institute of Technology. If eligible for admission, a Designated School Official (aka "DSO") will issue you an "Initial Attendance" Form I-20 (aka "I-20"). After receiving your Form I-20, you should pay the SEVIS I-901 fee online at www.fmjfee.com.

What is the SEVIS I-901 fee and who pays it?

After you have been accepted to Wentworth Institute of Technology and issued an Initial attendance Form I-20 and before you attend your visa interview, you will need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. The department of Homeland security requires that all F-1 students obtaining a new Initial Attendance I-20, pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee. The student is solely responsible for paying the SEVIS I-901 fee directly to the student and exchange visitor program (SEVP) to make the payment go to <https://www.fmjfee.com>

The next step is to make an appointment to obtain an F-1 Student visa from an U.S. Embassy/Consulate. Visit the U.S. embassy website for the location nearest to you to make your appointment.

What documents must I present to get an F-1 visa?

- Passport valid for travel to the United States- Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your period of stay in the United States.
- Non-immigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160 confirmation page.
- Photo- You will upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160.
- Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant (F-1) Student status.

- Acceptance letter from Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Proof of financial eligibility to cover tuition and living expenses for at least one year

How long does it take to get a visa?

The average wait time varies from country to country. Visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/> to confirm how long it takes at your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate.

How Early can I enter the U.S?

You may enter the U.S. no sooner than 30 days before the program start date listed on your I-20. If you attempt to enter the U.S. sooner, you may be denied entry or be considered in violation of your status.

Can I enter the U.S. after my start date?

If you travel to the U.S. after your start date, you will probably face problems at the port of entry, since it appears you failed to meet the requirement of reporting to the center on your I-20 start date. To prevent problems at the port of entry, you should contact the admissions office at Wentworth Institute of Technology before you enter the U.S. and ask that we postpone your start date if you think you will be unable to arrive on or before your start date.

What documents will I need to show at the port of Entry?

At a minimum, you should travel with the documents listed below and be prepared to show these documents to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when traveling through the U.S. Port of Entry. If these documents are missing or incomplete, you may be questioned, or denied entry.

- A valid (non-expired) passport (passports should be valid for 6 months beyond your intended stay),
- A valid (non-expired) F-1 Student visa with the name of the school you will be attending printed on it,
- All three pages of your Form I-20 issued by Wentworth Institute of Technology with a future start date, printed and with your signature on page 1.

What happens at the Port of Entry?

Generally, you can expect to be asked to show the documents listed above, state the reason you wish to enter the U.S., and provide information regarding your final destination. Your documents will be inspected by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent to determine whether you are admissible to the U.S. Your entry and departure from the U.S will be recorded through an electronic I-94.

What is an I-94 record and why is it important?

Airports and seaports record arrival and departure information in an electronic form I-94. It is updated after each entry and should accurately record these dates, as well as your visa type (e.g. F-1) and admission length (e.g. Duration of Status). It is very important to check that this information shortly after entering the U.S. for accuracy because if there is an error (such as improper dates recorded or improper visa type indicated) then you could be in danger of violating your immigration status and this could create problems for you in the future.

Do I need an F1 visa stamp if I am a Canadian or Bermudian citizen?

Students citizens of Canada and Bermuda do not need visa stamps to study or participate in an exchange program in the U.S. However, Canadian and Bermudian citizens do need to obtain an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility from the University. Upon receipt of the I-20 the student will be registered with SEVIS, the student tracking system, will be assigned a SEVIS number, and will be required to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. When crossing the border to begin their study or exchange program in the United States, the student will need to provide the officer at the port of entry:

1. A Canadian or Bermudian passport;
2. The original I20 document;

3. Proof that the SEVIS fee has been paid;
4. Proof of ability to pay school fees and living expenses in the United States.

Can I transfer my SEVIS record from another school to Wentworth Institute of Technology?

Yes, if you are currently studying in the U.S. with an F-1 visa you can transfer your I-20/SEVIS record from another school. You will not need to pay the SEVIS fee again or obtain a new F-1 visa if you do not plan to exit the U.S. prior to commencing your studies at Wentworth. If you do plan to exit the U.S. prior to commencing studies at Wentworth, make sure to notify your Admissions counselor about your plans.

To start the process of transferring, you must submit the following to your International Student Advisor at your current school:

- A. Written confirmation of acceptance to Wentworth Institute of Technology
- B. Transfer release form release form with student section completed

Your International Student Advisor will then work with you, to choose a transfer release date. This date is when the International Student Advisor at Wentworth Institute of Technology takes responsibility for your SEVIS record.

F-2 and the Form I-20

Make sure that your Admissions Counselor knows that you would like to bring your dependents (spouse or child under 21) with you. You will need to provide copies of their passport biography pages and additional proof of finances for each dependent. The school will issue a Form I-20 for each of your dependents. Your dependents don't need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee but they must obtain their F-2 visas at the embassy.

Before you apply for an F-2 visa for your spouse or child, you should understand the visa limitations on your dependents.

F-2 dependents:

- Are in legal immigration status as long as you maintain status, throughout your program of study and any authorized period of optional practical training after completion
- May depart and re-enter the United States with proper documentation
- May not work
- Are not eligible for Social Security numbers
- Should obtain an updated Form I-20 form your International Student Advisor if any information about you changes