

What to Expect When Arriving in the U.S.

Summer 2026



Agenda

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Introductions



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We want to meet YOU! Please enter your name and which country you are coming from in the chat bar.



All F-1 Students

- I-20 signed by you
- Valid F-1 visa stamp
- Passport valid for at least 6 months into the future
- AND the relevant documents below

- Letter of admission from University of Denver
- Proof of funding
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt printout

- A travel signature on page 2 signed by ISSS within the last 12 months
- Recommended: copies of your course transcripts and enrollment for the upcoming term

- A travel signature on page 2 signed within the last 6 months
- EAD card
- Recommended: proof of employment

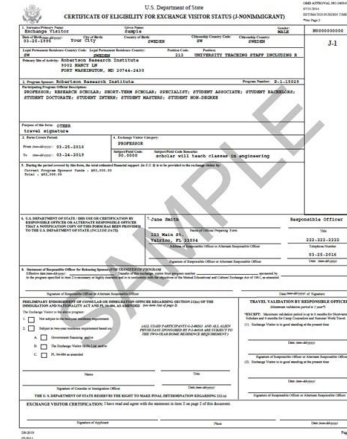


What J-1 documents to bring?

Pack all of these in your carryon luggage!

All J-1 Students

- DS 2019 signed by you
- Valid J-1 visa stamp
- Passport valid for at least 6 months into the future
- AND the relevant documents below

A sample DS-2019 form, titled "U.S. Department of State CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATUS (J-1 NONIMMIGRANT)". The form is filled out with sample information, including a student's name, date of birth, and program details. A large "SAMPLE" watermark is diagonally across the center of the form.

New J-1 students

- Letter of admission from University of Denver
- Proof of funding
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt printout

Returning J-1 students

- A travel signature signed by ISSS within the last 12 months
- Recommended: copies of your course transcripts and enrollment for the upcoming term

Returning J-1 students on Academic Training

- A travel signature signed by ISSS within the last 12 months
- Recommended: proof of employment



What to do on arrival?

Step 1: Immigration

When you arrive at your first port of entry (POE) in the U.S., you must go through immigration and customs.

TIP: Enter the U.S. through the Denver International Airport (if you can).

If you fly to the Denver International Airport, [their website](#) has maps and other helpful information.

When you get off the plane, follow the signs for “Non-U.S. Citizens.”

You might have to wait in a line.

Once you get to the front of the line:

- Present your immigration documents (passport and I-20/DS-2019) to the officer.
- Say that you are seeking F-1 or J-1 status as an international student at the University of Denver.
- Answer any questions the officer asks accurately and honestly.
- Show any other documentation as requested (financial documentation, etc.)
 - [This includes your cell phone, camera, computer, or other electronic device](#)



What to do on arrival?

Step 1: Immigration cont'd

Some students are asked to go to “secondary inspection”

- If this happens, don't panic. It does not mean there is a problem or you are in trouble.
- You will have to go through secondary inspection if the officer can't immediately determine you are eligible to enter in F-1 or J-1 status.
- This is very common for F-1 or J-1 students (especially if SEVIS is slow that day).

Once the officer determines you are eligible to enter the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status, you can move on to step 2!

TIP: If you have access to a smart phone at the airport, check your electronic I-94 record of admission before you leave the immigration area!

- Find your record on the [CBP website](#)
- Check your record to ensure:
 - your Class of Admission is F-1 or J-1
 - you have been admitted for “Duration of Status” or “D/S” (if you enter before September 15, 2026; you will have a specific date listed if you enter on or after September 15, 2026)
- If you can't locate your I-94 record or if there is a problem (you are entered in B1/B2 status, for example) try to get it corrected before you leave the immigration area.



What to do on arrival

Step 2: Customs

After immigration, you will go to an area with the luggage carousel. Pick up your luggage and pass through Customs.

Do not bring any produce, food, or animal products with you to the U.S. Before you depart your home, review the [list of restricted items here](#).

If you do bring a restricted item with you, you must declare it when going through customs. This is usually through a separate line so the officers can open and check your luggage.

If you bring over \$10,000 (USD) in U.S. currency, foreign currency, traveler checks, money orders, etc., you must declare it to the Customs officials.

If you are unsure if you need to declare something, ask.



What to do on arrival

Step 3: Travel to your lodging – you made it!

Once you arrive in Denver, you will need to find transportation to your lodging. This can either be your permanent lodging – if you have already secured a place to stay – OR it can be temporary, such as a hotel.

When you arrive at the airport, you can get around Denver in several ways:

- the [“RTD” system](#) (the public transportation system)
- [a shared van service](#)
- Private taxi/Uber/Lyft

Before you depart your home, be sure that you know where you will stay when you arrive in Denver! DU does not provide temporary housing. Although DU doesn't offer temporary housing, we do have partnerships with local hotels for discounted rates. A list of these hotels is available on the [Community and Visitors](#) page of the DU website



What if I am not granted entry?

If you have all of your immigration documents, you should encounter no trouble entering the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status.

If you experience unexpected problems when trying to enter the U.S. such as being denied boarding for an international flight to the U.S. or denied entry into the U.S. while in possession of all necessary immigration documents (listed above), please contact Campus Safety (1-303-871-2334 or Toll Free at 1-800-268-6594).

How to Contact ISSS

Email iss@du.edu

Schedule a [Zoom Advising Appointment](#)

Tips for Emailing ISSS

- ✓ Include your DU ID# (87#)
- ✓ Send to iss@du.edu, not to advisor
- ✓ Do not send to multiple advisors
- ✓ Responses to email take 1-3 business days
- ✓ **Check your DU email regularly**





<https://internationalization.du.edu/iss>



iss@du.edu



Instagram @iss_du

**Ways to
Connect with
ISSS**



Resources

Denver International Airport: <https://www.flydenver.com/international-travelers/>

CBP list of restricted items and what to declare: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go/prohibited-and-restricted-items>

Information on Clearing Customs: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/clearing-customs>

Information for Admission into the U.S.: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/applying-admission-united-states>

ACLU Know Your Rights at the Border: <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-when-encountering-law-enforcement-airports-and-other-ports-entry-us>

ISSS Travel Website: <https://internationalization.du.edu/iss/resources/travel-reentry>

ISSS Immigration Update Website: <https://internationalization.du.edu/iss/content/immigration-updates>



These slides will be available on the ISSS website by the end of this week:
<https://internationalization.du.edu/iss/resources/travel-reentry>

Questions?

THANK YOU

