

Fun Facts About Your I-20

It's Your Student Visa's Best Friend

**YOU CAN'T APPLY FOR AN F-1 VISA
WITHOUT AN I-20. THINK OF IT LIKE YOUR
OFFICIAL INVITATION LETTER TO STUDY IN
THE U.S., SIGNED BY YOUR SCHOOL AND
VERIFIED BY SEVIS.**

The I-20 Has a Birthday

**PAGE 1 OF YOUR I-20 HAS A
"PROGRAM START DATE." THAT'S THE
OFFICIAL "BIRTHDAY" OF YOUR
ACADEMIC JOURNEY IN THE U.S. YOU
CAN EVEN THROW IT A PARTY**

There's a Secret Code on It

**WELL, NOT SECRET, BUT EVERY I-20
HAS A BARCODE AT THE TOP. THAT'S
HOW IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS SCAN
YOUR DOCUMENT LIGHTNING FAST,
LIKE A BOARDING PASS FOR YOUR
EDUCATION.**

Fun Facts About Your I-20

Each I-20 Has Its Own SEVIS ID

THE NUMBER IN THE UPPER-RIGHT CORNER OF YOUR I-20 (STARTING WITH "N") IS YOUR UNIQUE SEVIS ID. IT FOLLOWS YOU EVERYWHERE, EVEN IF YOU TRANSFER SCHOOLS OR CHANGE PROGRAMS.

It's Not a Visa, But It Can Get You One

SOME STUDENTS CONFUSE THE I-20 WITH A VISA. IT'S NOT. THE I-20 IS THE DOCUMENT THAT GETS YOU THE VISA, BUT IT'S NOT PERMISSION TO ENTER, THE VISA IS.

The Travel Signature Isn't Forever

THAT TRAVEL SIGNATURE ON PAGE 2? IT'S ONLY VALID FOR 12 MONTHS (OR 6 MONTHS IF YOU'RE ON OPT). FORGETTING TO RENEW IT CAN CAUSE ISSUES AT THE BORDER!

You Can Have Multiple I-20s

YEP! YOU CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE I-20 IN YOUR LIFE:

- INITIAL I-20 (WHEN YOU FIRST GET ADMITTED)
- UPDATED I-20 (IF YOU CHANGE MAJORS, EXTEND PROGRAM, OR UPDATE FUNDING)
- TRAVEL I-20 (SIGNED FOR RE-ENTRY)
- OPT OR CPT I-20 (FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION)

**Fun Facts About
Your I-20**

It Can Help You Get a Driver's License or SSN

MANY DMVS AND SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES REQUIRE YOUR I-20 TO VERIFY YOUR STATUS AND ELIGIBILITY.

Transferring Schools? You Still Need a New I- 20

EVEN IF YOU DON'T LEAVE THE U.S., TRANSFERRING TO A NEW SCHOOL MEANS GETTING A WHOLE NEW I-20 FROM YOUR NEW INSTITUTION. THE OLD SCHOOL MUST RELEASE YOUR SEVIS RECORD.

Every School Official Has a Signature Spot

EVER WONDER WHO SIGNS YOUR I-20?
THAT'S THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL
OFFICIAL (DSO), THE PERSON WHO
BECOMES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
CONTACTS IN YOUR U.S. ACADEMIC
LIFE.

**Fun Facts About
Your I-20**

It's What Makes CPT and OPT Possible

WANT TO WORK WHILE STUDYING OR
AFTER GRADUATION? YOU'LL NEED A
NEW I-20 WITH WORK AUTHORIZATION
PRINTED ON IT. IT'S THE MAGIC KEY
THAT MAKES LEGAL EMPLOYMENT
POSSIBLE.

Changing Majors or Address? The I-20 Knows!

YOUR I-20 GETS UPDATED EVERY
TIME YOU CHANGE SOMETHING
IMPORTANT. MAJOR, DEGREE
LEVEL, FUNDING, ADDRESS, ETC.
IT'S LIKE YOUR SCHOOL-LIFE
PASSPORT.

Don't Ever Lose It – Seriously

EVEN EXPIRED I-20S SHOULD BE SAVED. IF
YOU APPLY FOR OPT, STEM EXTENSION, OR
EVEN A GREEN CARD LATER ON, YOU MAY BE
ASKED FOR ALL PRIOR I-20S.