

## 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 1-20 HAS A BARCODE AT THE TOP. THAT'S HOW IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS SCAN YOUR DOCUMENT LIGHTNING FAST, LIKE A BOARDING PASS FOR YOUR EDUCATION.



## 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

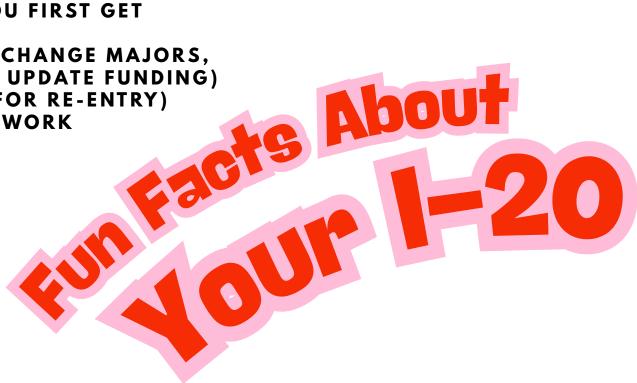
YEP! YOU CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE I-20 IN YOUR LIFE:

 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 1-20 (FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION)



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

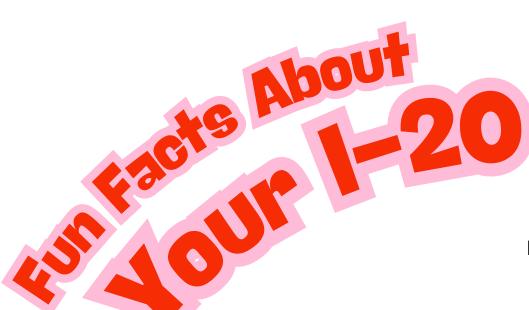
MANY DMVS AND SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES REQUIRE YOUR I-20 TO VERIFY YOUR STATUS AND ELIGIBILITY.

# 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 1-20?
THAT'S THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL
OFFICIAL (DSO), THE PERSON WHO
BECOMES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
CONTACTS IN YOUR U.S. ACADEMIC
LIFE.



#### 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.