

**Visa** – A visa is your permission to apply for entry into the United States. There are several kinds of visas (e.g., F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2). The visa type of your dependents is usually linked to the type of visa you have.

**DS-2019** – Certificate of eligibility for J-1 Exchange Visitor status, prepared by the sponsoring agency, which shows program of study, dates of eligibility, financial information, etc. It is not the visa document.

**I-20** – The Certificate of Eligibility for non-immigrant student status is commonly referred to as the I-20. Students must sign the bottom of page 1 of the I-20. On the initial entry to the U.S., the immigration official date stamps the I-20 form.

**I-94 (Arrival/Departure record)** – The small white card issued by the U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS) upon entry to the U.S. It is normally stapled in your passport on the page opposite your visa. The form I-94 is your permit to stay in the U.S.

**Admission Number** – The 11 digit number found on the I-94 that is completed upon entry into the U.S. at the port of entry. This number is intended to keep track of arrivals & departures to and from the United States.

**Duration of Status (D/S)** – An F-1 student's permission to stay is defined as "Duration of Status". It appears on the I-94 as D/S and relates to the expected date of program completion (see item #5 on your I-20). Students must file for an extension of program at least one month before this date. If you need an extension, contact International Services (IS).

**FNIF** – Foreign National Information Form. This form is completed along with all new hire paperwork for Foreign Nationals. (See FIND IT.)

**SEVIS** – The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, designed by federal agencies to monitor certain aspects of the programs of F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors in the United States.

**Transfer** – If students are transferring from another school in the U.S., they must check-in with International Services (IS) within 15 days after the start of the term to complete the transfer process.

**Traveling Abroad and Re-entry** – Foreign national employees who plan to leave the U.S. and re-enter in their current immigration status need a valid passport, a valid visa stamp from a U.S. consulate or embassy (unless they are a citizen of Canada), and immigration documents that verify their immigration status. International students with an I-20 issued by USF should visit International Services (IS) to obtain a signature on page 4. If the visa in your passport has expired, contact IS at least one month prior to departing the U.S. for instructions on obtaining a new visa for your visa status. You will need to get a new visa before re-entering the U.S. If you are traveling to another country that is not your home country, you may need a visa to enter that country. You should contact the country's embassy in Washington, D.C. for entry visa requirements well in advance of your visit.