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# Fall 2024

# Admitted International Student To-Do List

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**□** SET UP YOUR VANDAL ACCOUNTS

Go to [www.vandalsetup.uidaho.edu](http://www.vandalsetup.uidaho.edu) . You’ll need your V-number. Make sure to check your VandalMail regularly for messages and important updates. (If you have technical problems, go to [www.support.uidaho.edu](http://www.support.uidaho.edu))

**□** ACCEPT INVITATION TO IDAHO SCHOLARSHIP

Once you are admitted to UIdaho, you will automatically be considered for the Invitation to Idaho scholarship. If you qualify for this award, it will be posted to your VandalWeb account the Tuesday after an admission decision has been made. **Accept** or **Decline** your awards after considering the cost of attendance.

**□** E-MEET WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR – REGISTER FOR CLASSES

You will meet with an advisor each semester at U of I to remove your advising hold before you can register for classes. You can schedule an appointment with your advisor through VandalStar. Academic advisors are assigned by major.

* [**Find Your Academic Advisor**](https://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/academic-support/academic-advising/student-resources/finding-an-advisor)**.**
* [**Schedule an Advising Appointment**](https://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/academic-support/academic-advising/student-resources/scheduling-advising-appointment)**.** \*Class Registration begins in mid-April
* [**Preparing for an Advising Meeting**](https://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/academic-support/academic-advising/student-resources/preparing-for-an-advising-meeting)**.**

**□** RESERVE ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

First year students are required to live on campus their first year in either a Residence Hall, Fraternity, or Sorority. Explore the Residence Halls and make a selection at <https://www.uidaho.edu/student-life/housing> or visit [www.uidaho.edu/greek](http://www.uidaho.edu/greek) to learn about Greek life and sign up to participate in Recruitment (held in August).

Transfer students and new students who are 21-years or older are not required to live on campus but are encouraged to consider both options! Off Campus — Contact local rental offices and real estate agencies: [Off-Campus Housing Options - Student Life | University of Idaho (uidaho.edu)](https://www.uidaho.edu/student-life/off-campus-housing) or review the following housing website: <https://rentalsearch.uidaho.edu/listing>. The best rentals go quickly, so book early!

**□** REGISTER FOR NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION & COMPLETE IVANDAL PRE-ARRIVAL

Our New Student Orientation, connects you with campus, fun events, and other new students—Register at <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/vandal-welcome>.

**Virtual Pre-Arrival** in [**iVandal**](https://www.ivandal.uidaho.edu/istart/controllers/start/StartEngine.cfm): Please complete **prior to August 16, 2024**.

**□** ORGANIZE YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING CLASS SCHEDULE

Print your class schedule from VandalWeb before you travel and keep with other travel documents to verify enrollment at your port of entry.

Carry these documents with you—don’t put them in your checked luggage.

* Valid Passport; Valid U.S. Visa; I-20 or DS-2019
* Receipt from paying the SEVIS fee;
* Copy of admissions letter, proof of funds
* Copy of class schedule and housing confirmation.



# **□** PAY YOUR BILL

All semester tuition, fees, residence hall and meal plan charges for on-campus housing, and health insurance must be paid at the Students Accounts Office, on VandalWeb, through mail or via [TransferMate](https://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/student-accounts/billing-payment/foreign-payments), by the first day of classes.

Billing is posted in your VandalWeb approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the start of semester and is generated by your class registration. A partial deposit (approximately $5,000) can be paid prior to departure to show intent to study at port of entry. Students wanting to pay a deposit should contact Student Accounts, [acctrec@uidaho.edu](mailto:acctrec@uidaho.edu)

**□** PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL – ARRIVE IN TIME FOR ORIENTATION ON AUG 14

We recommend using the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) as your port of entry for U.S. Customs prior to continuing to Pullman Moscow Regional Airport (PUW) or Spokane International Airport (GEG).

* Limited airport pick-up is offered at Pullman (PUW); Request Airport Pick-Up [**HERE**](https://www.uidaho.edu/academics/ipo/international-services/future-students)
* If landing in Spokane (GEG), you will have to arrange for bus transportation to Moscow, Idaho—[**Northwestern Trailways**](https://northwesternstagelines.com/)offers daily transportation. Bus tickets need to be purchased in advance.
* Navigate the [**process and procedures for arrival in the U.S.**](https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors)
* Arrive in time for [**New Student Orientation**](https://www.uidaho.edu/events/orientation)and [International Student Orientation](https://www.uidaho.edu/events/orientation/intl-schedule)

# **□** BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY: ONE LAST CHECK

* **ASK YOURSELF** — Have you taken care of the tasks that you can do from your home country? Do you have everything you need, i.e. prescription drugs, recommended vaccinations, etc.?
* **CLASSES** — Do you know who your advisor is and have you registered for classes?
* **ACCOMMODATIONS** — Do you have your housing arranged?
* **MONEY** — Do you know how you will pay for college? Have you accepted your scholarship? Do you have travel money for incidentals?

**□** CHANGE OF PLANS? COMMUNICATE WITH CAMPUS

If you need to defer, complete the Deferred Admission Form here: <https://www.uidaho.edu/admissions/admitted/deferred-admission>.

If you have decided not to attend UI, please notify the Admissions Office by emailing [admintl@uidaho.edu](mailto:admintl@uidaho.edu)

# Additional Notes:

**□** REVIEW THE TO-DO LIST:

### <https://www.uidaho.edu/admissions/international/admitted/to-do-list>

IMPORTANT DATES - FALL 2024 SEMESTER

Residence Hall Move-In Day: **August 14, 2024**

Mandatory: International Student Orientation: **August 16, 2024**

New Student Orientation: **August 14-18, 2024**

First day of Fall 2023 classes: **August 19, 2024**

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It is U of I policy to prohibit and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy applies to all programs, services, and facilities, and includes, but is not limited to, applications, admissions, access to programs and services, and employment.

**FORM 1-20**

**2. Bank statement: statements must be dated within 6 months and will be required for your visa interview.**

**Bank statements** will need to show liquid funds (funds that can be immediately accessed and used). These can be one statement covering the entire amount displayed on the financial guarantee form for one year of attendance at the university, or a collection of bank statements from the people listed on the financial guarantee as sponsors.

For government sponsored students, a **sponsor letter** produced by a sponsoring agency recognized by U of I stating the applicant’s full name, academic program at U of I, term of the sponsorship and amounts covered by it. Some of the agencies are: SENACYT, Kuwait Cultural Office, Oman Cultural Division, Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, Sidra and UAE Cultural Division.

Your bank statements need to show available balances that equal or surpass the amount of expenses (after deducting any scholarships) for one year of attendance at U of I. If this ability is not demonstrated, the I-20 cannot be processed.

1. Use the [Application Status Portal](https://futurevandals.uidaho.edu/account/login?r=https://futurevandals.uidaho.edu/apply/status) to upload your documents.
2. Please ensure that the financial institution’s name, the account holder’s name and account balance are all clearly visible.
3. These statements need to be dated within the last 6 months.

**3. Copy of passport**

* You may take a clear photo or scan of the biographic page of your passport and use the [Application Status Portal](https://futurevandals.uidaho.edu/account/login?r=https://futurevandals.uidaho.edu/apply/status) to upload your documents. The bio page shows your picture and personal details.

**Allow 7-10 working days from the time of document submission to I-20 issuance.**

□ **TO REQUEST AN I-20 FROM UIDAHO: SUBMIT REQUIRED FORM I-20 DOCUMENTS**

**1.** [**Certificate of Financial Responsibility**](https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIdaho-Responsive/Files/Admissions/forms/certificate-of-financial-responsibility.pdf?la=en&hash=B4A747980C1C74D177D98778D0C9494D20934A47&hash=B4A747980C1C74D177D98778D0C9494D20934A47)

In compliance with the Department of Homeland Security and SEVIS regulations, all international applicants on the F-1 student visa must provide evidence of sufficient funds available for their studies in the U.S. For this purpose, a Certificate of Financial Responsibility (CFR) must be completed and submitted.

1. Include all scholarships (i.e. Invitation to Idaho scholarship, Athletic scholarship, etc.) received from the University of Idaho in the Sources of Funds table, in U of I Department section; include the total amount of funding received from U of I on the same line but in the right column that says “Amount in U.S. Dollars.”
2. Students with dependents (a spouse and/or child) who will be joining them in the U.S. during their time on an F-1 or J-1 visa will need to provide proof of additional funds. These amounts are outlined in the CFR.
3. Use the [**Application Status Portal**](https://futurevandals.uidaho.edu/account/login?r=https://futurevandals.uidaho.edu/apply/status) to upload your documents

## The I-20 is an important immigration document that F-1 students need to be issued by a U.S. university prior to beginning the student visa process. It is an important document that you will need throughout your time as an international student.

**Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status**

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**□** AFTER PAYING THE I-901 SEVIS FEE: SCHEDULE YOUR F-1 VISA APPOINTMENT

To learn how to apply for your visa, review the [**student visas page**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html) on travel.state.gov, as well as the instructions at the website of the [**embassy or consulate**](https://www.usembassy.gov/) where you will apply for a visa. After you receive your visa, confirm that you were issued the correct type of visa AND check that your name and date of birth are correct and match the information in your passport.

□ **BASIC STEPS:**

* Complete the Online Visa Application, Form DS-160;
* Print the DS-160 confirmation page to bring to your interview;
* Schedule an Interview;
* Prepare for U.S. Visa Interview:
  + Pay Issuance Fee, if required;
  + Gather Required Documents—list [**here**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html#overview);
* Visa appointments can be scheduled up to 1 year prior to your start term once you have been issued an I-20 Form and paid the SEVIS I-901 fee.
* Check the anticipated U.S. visa appointment wait time in your country here: [**https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html)
* If you are unable to arrive for the start of the semester, you will need to defer to a later entry term. Complete the [**Deferred Admission Form**](https://www.uidaho.edu/admissions/admitted/deferred-admission).

**□** ****ACCESS YOUR ISSUED FORM I-20****

Your I-20 Form is electronically issued and emailed to your University of Idaho student email account, called VandalMail.

* Review your issued SEVIS Form I-20—ensure that the information is correct (spelling, dates, etc.)
* Print in color once you have reviewed for accuracy.
* Add your printed I-20 to your visa interview/travel file.

**□** AFTER RECEIVING YOUR I-20: PAY THE I-901 SEVIS FEE

\*PRINT/KEEP RECEIPT!

Before you pay the[**I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee**](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/students-and-the-form-i-20), you must receive the Form I-20 from the University of Idaho. You will need information from the Form I-20 to pay the fee. The [**I-901 SEVIS Fee**](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/glossary/I/#I-901%20SEVIS%20Fee) is mandatory and must be paid before you schedule your F-1 visa interview at your nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

[**I-901 SEVIS Fee Payment Video**](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/i-901-sevis-fee-payment-video)

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**STEP 1: ADMISSION & I-20**

Once you have been accepted to the University of Idaho and all your I-20 documents have been reviewed, you will be issued an I-20 form. This form documents your study plans and provides supporting information about your stay in the U.S.

**STEP 2: PAY YOUR SEVIS I-901 FEE**

The $350 SEVIS fee is a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) processing and maintenance charge.

**STEP 3:**

**COMPLETE YOUR DS-160 VISA APPLICATION**

All prospective international students must complete a DS-160 to receive a F-1 visa.

**STEP 4:**

**SCHEDULE YOUR VISA INTERVIEW**

Wait times vary by country and can take several months. Schedule your appointment as early as possible to all for delays.

Interviews cannot be over 120 days before your program start date.

**STEP 5:**

**ATTEND VISA INTERVIEW**

**STEP 6:**

**MOVE FORWARD WITH TRAVEL PLANS**

Purchase plane tickets—arrive in time for orientation.

Email travel itinerary to UIdaho: [ipo@uidaho.edu](mailto:ipo@uidaho.edu)

Sign up for airport pick-up if landing in PUW.

**STEP 7:**

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Always carry travel documents with you in your carry-on baggage.

* ***Print your housing/lease confirmations for this file.***
* ***Print your class registration for this file***
* ***Copies of I-20, financial documents, etc.***
* ***Take a picture of your luggage (in case bags are lost in transit)***

**U.S. VISA APPLICATION STEPS**