



Visa Interview and Entry Process

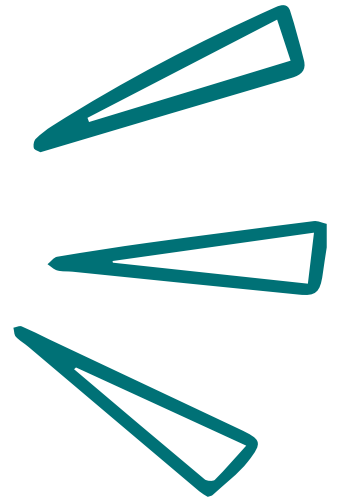


UMBC

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

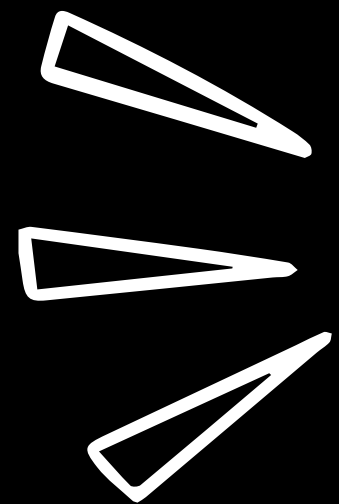


Please type questions in the chat!

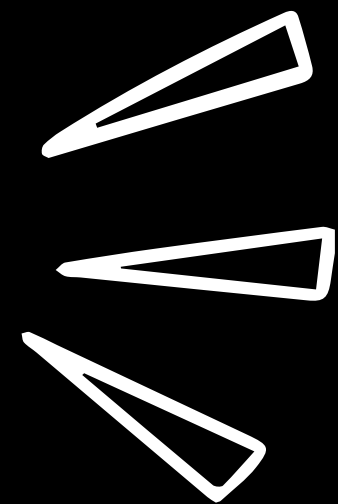


*You may type your questions into the chat at any point
during the presentation!*





Working with OISS



Center for Global Engagement

Office of International Students and Scholars

[Home](#) ▼[F-1 Students](#) ▼[J-1 Exchange Visitors](#) ▼[Int'l Employees](#) ▼[Families](#) ▼[Resources](#) ▼[ISSS Portal](#)

CPT: Off-Campus
Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers
(SSN)



Travel Outside the US



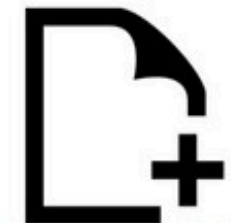
Applying for a Maryland
Driver's License or State ID



OPT: Post-Graduation
Work Authorization



STEM OPT Extension



Extend Your F-1 Program
(I-20)



Change of Immigration
Status



New Students!
Download the International Student
Arrival Guide



COVID-19: Spring 2022 Options for
New and Continuing F-1 Students



Something else?
See how to contact ISSS

**If you have a question, be sure to
check our website first!**

Here you can find:

- Step-by-step guides
- Information about your documents
- Work Authorization Checklists
- Link to the ISSS Portal
- and More!



How to contact OISS

Visit our Contact Us page!
issss.umbc.edu/contact



Help Ticket

Use the Help Ticket system to send and receive messages.



Virtual Appointment

Schedule a 15 minute virtual advising appointment



Walk-In

In person meeting with an ISSS advisor



OISS Office



UMBC

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

**We are a part of the Center for
Global Engagement**

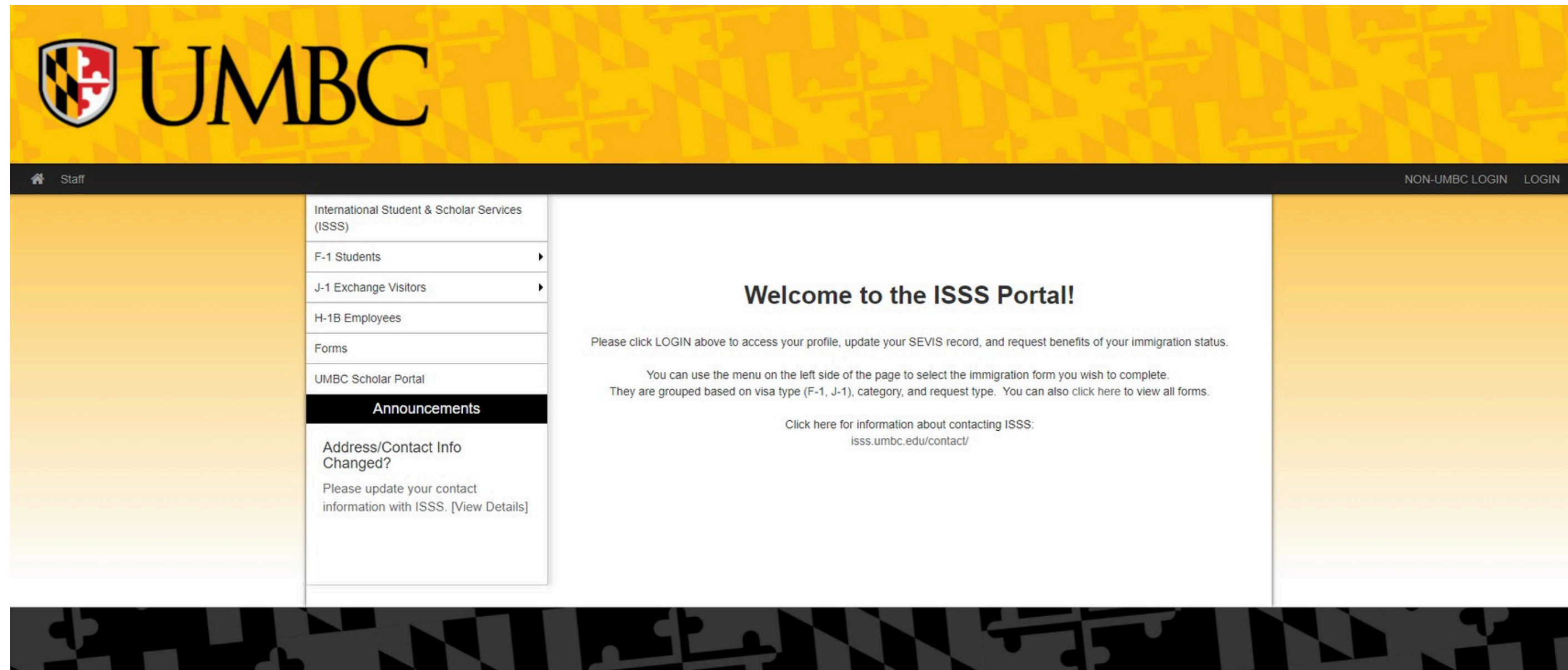
University Center, 207a

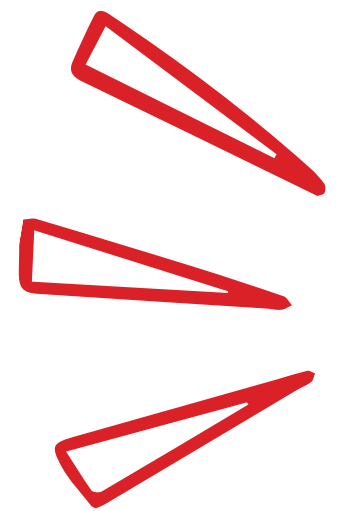
M-F 8:30-4:30



ISSS Portal

Complete all electronic requests via the ISSS Portal





Important



Always confirm your request is in the status: “Submitted - Under review”
If the status is “Pending” it is in draft form and we will not process it.

We will contact you if there is an issue with your request.

Your patience is greatly appreciated!



Stay connected with OISS



myUMBC Group:
International Student and
Scholar Services (ISSS)



OISS website:
issc.umbc.edu

Answers to most of your
questions can be found here!



ISSS Portal:
issc-portal.umbc.edu



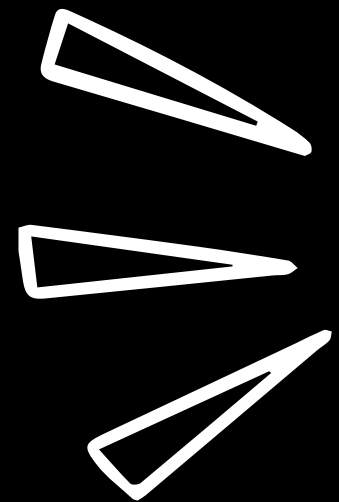
Contact Us:
issc.umbc.edu/contact



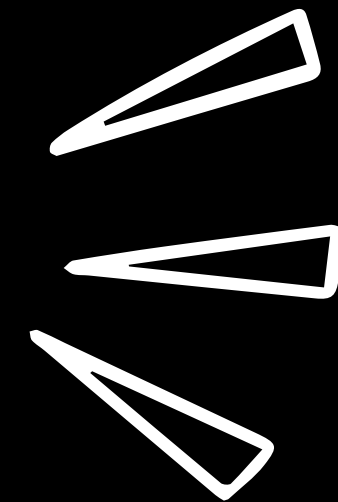
Instagram:
[@umbc_issc](https://www.instagram.com/umbc_issc)

Check your personal and UMBC email frequently for updates!



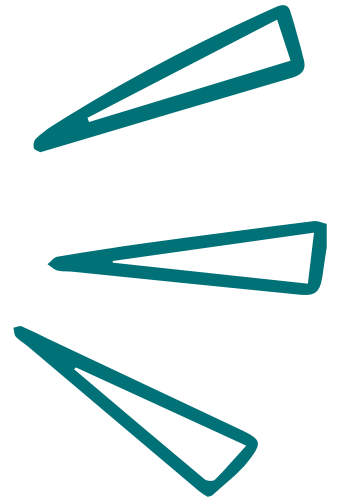


The F-1 Student Visa Process





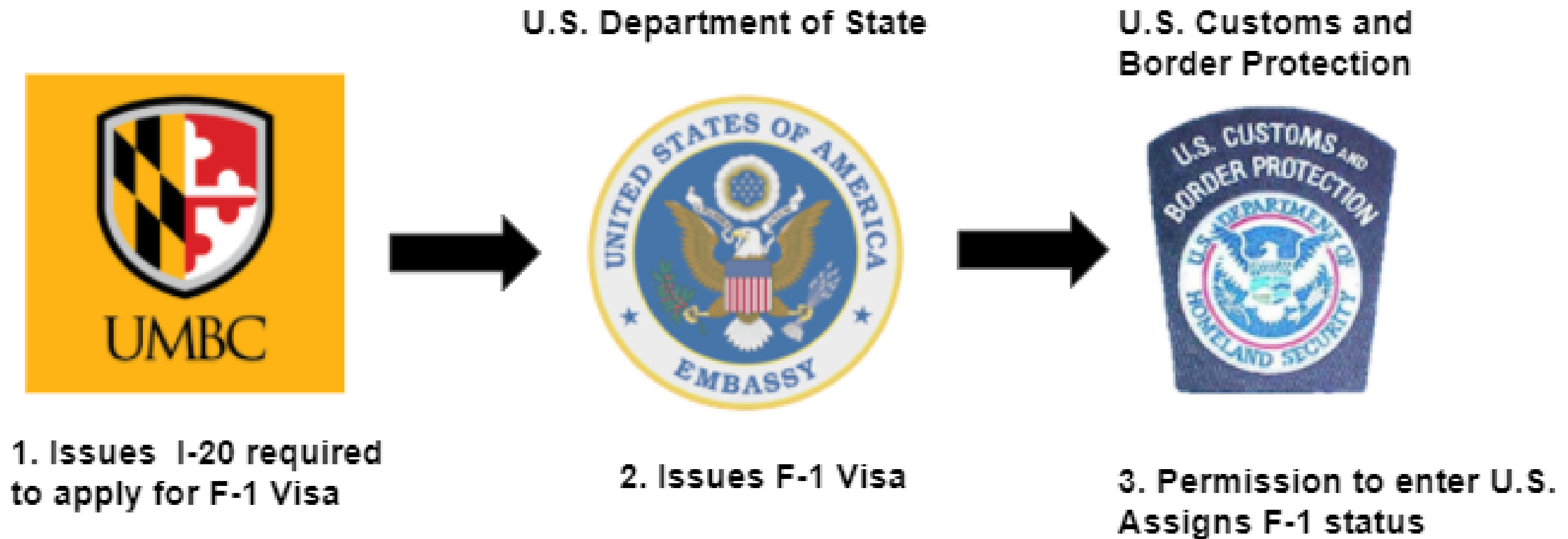
Please type questions in the chat!



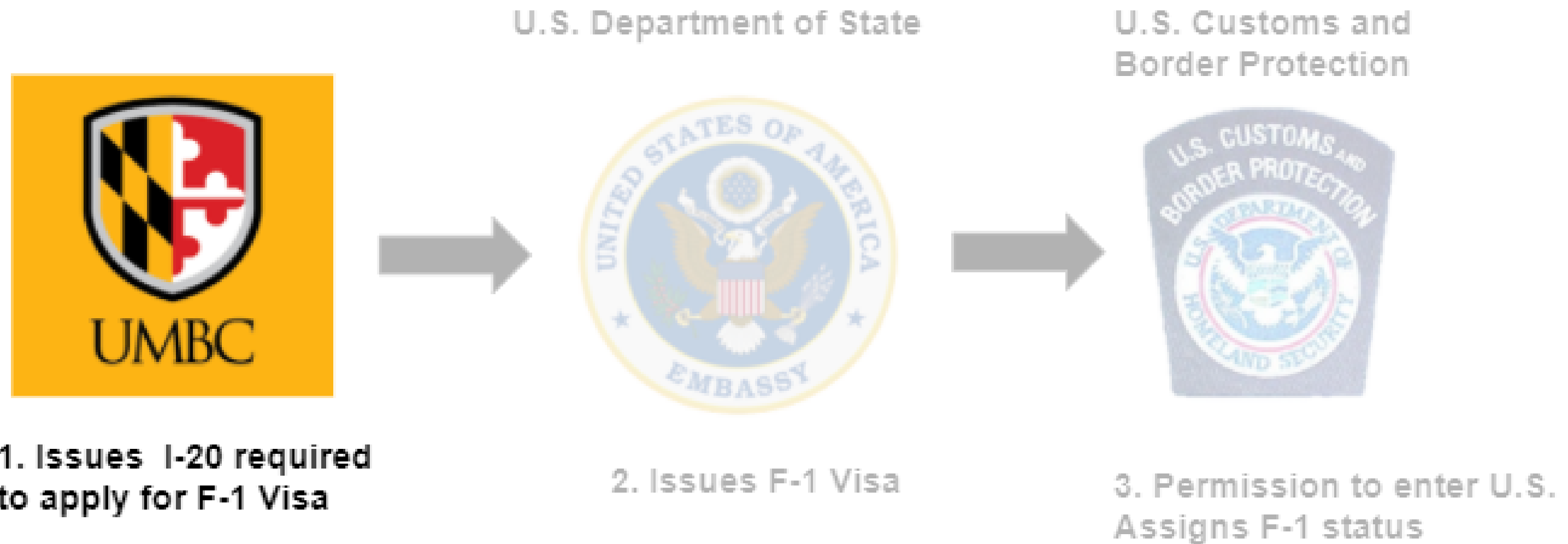
*You may type your questions into the chat at any point
during the presentation!*



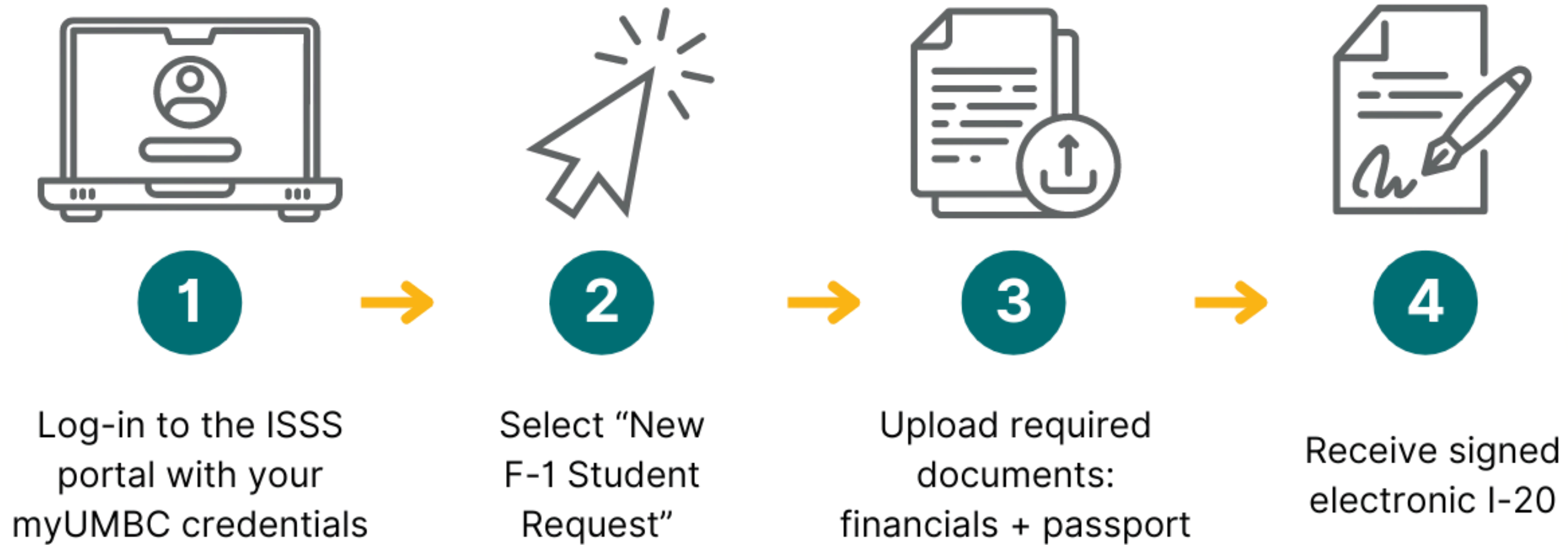
The Student Visa Process



The Student Visa Process



How to Request your I-20



Review the F-1 Visa process: iss.s.umbc.edu



Form I-20

- Issued by UMBC after admission
 - Request in the ISSS Portal
 - Electronic - print and sign in **blue ink**
- Contains personal information, keep private
- Not a bill
- Indicates your SEVIS ID
- Contact UMBC promptly if any changes are needed.

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement		I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1653-0038	
SEVIS ID: N00XXXXXXXXXX			
SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME Trojan		GIVEN NAME Tommy	CLASS F-1 ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE
PREFERRED NAME Tommy Trojan		PASSPORT NAME	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
DATE OF BIRTH		ADMISSION NUMBER	
FORM ISSUE REASON CONTINUED ATTENDANCE		LEGACY NAME Tommy Trojan	
SCHOOL INFORMATION			
SCHOOL NAME University of Southern California University of Southern California		SCHOOL ADDRESS Office of International Services, 300 Student Union, Los Angeles, CA 90089	
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL Ariel Suarez Immigration Advisor		SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE 10S214F00291000 30 JANUARY 2003	
PROGRAM OF STUDY			
EDUCATION LEVEL MASTER'S	MAJOR 1 Playwriting and Screenwriting 50.0504	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000	
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 24 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient	
PROGRAM START DATE 11 AUGUST 2014	PROGRAM END DATE 13 MAY 2016		
FINANCIALS			
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 37,561	Personal Funds	\$ 0
Living Expenses	\$ 20,348	NONE	\$ 0
Expenses of Dependents (0)	\$ 0	NONE	\$ 57,909
NONE	\$ 0	On-Campus Employment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 57,909	TOTAL	\$ 57,909
REMARKS			
SCHOOL ATTESTATION			
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.			
X		DATE ISSUED 16 March 2016	PLACE ISSUED Los Angeles, CA
STUDENT ATTESTATION			
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.			
X			
SIGNATURE OF: Tommy Trojan		DATE	
X			
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city/state or province/country)	DATE



The Student Visa Process



Visa Application Process

1

Pay **I-901 SEVIS fee** to Department of Homeland Security

- Form I-20 required
- www.fmjfee.com

2

Complete the **DS-160 Nonimmigrant visa** application

- Pay application fee
- Submit acceptable photo
- www.travel.state.gov

3

Schedule your visa interview appointment

- Each U.S. Embassy or Consulate has their own scheduling process - check their website!



Scheduling Visa Appointment

- A complete list of embassies, contact information, and procedures can be found at: travel.state.gov
- Digital fingerprinting appointment may be scheduled separately
- You must interview in your country of nationality or residence
- Some locations offer emergency appointments. You can check their policy to see if you qualify.



The Visa Interview Appointment

What to Bring:

- Form I-20
 - Financial documents (less than 6 months old)
 - Valid passport (more than 6 months validity)
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- DS-160 receipt and barcode page
- Other Supporting documents
 - Transcripts from previous study
 - Test results (TOEFL/iELTS, GRE, SAT, etc.)
 - Admission letter



Comprehensive Vetting

To ensure their eligibility for the visa type sought and that applicants “do not intend to harm Americans and our national interests” a thorough review of applicants’ backgrounds prior to visa issuance.

- Social media profiles - set to “public”
- Online activity, including blogs, articles, and media mentions
- Public digital presence



The Visa Interview Appointment

- An F-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa
- U.S. law assumes all applicants intend to immigrate
 - Burden of proof is on you to overcome that assumption

9 FAM 402.5(E)(1) “Possess residence in a foreign country he or she has no intention of abandoning”



The Visa Interview Appointment

- You must demonstrate:
 - Strong ties to your home country
 - Intent to depart the United States when the approved activity ends
 - That you have sufficient funds
 - That you intend to study full time and are prepared for the proposed course of study



The Visa Interview Questions

Consular officer may ask:

- Why UMBC and why this particular program and degree?
- Where is UMBC? Where is Maryland?
- How will you support yourself while in the U.S.?
- What are your long-term career and academic goals?
- What do you intend to do after completing your degree?
- Tell about your family's business in your home country or in the U.S.



Visa Interview Appointment Tips

- **Plan and practice!**
 - Most interviews are conducted in English
 - Speak for yourself
 - Be brief and be positive
- **Be honest**
 - A lie (however immaterial) will likely result in denial
 - Report all social media handles as requested
- **Be concise and prepared**
 - Organize supporting documents in advance
 - Remember, the interview is typically 2-3 minutes long!



If your visa is Approved

Your passport will be kept so the visa foil can be added.

You will receive instructions for picking up your passport later

Note:

1. Number of Entries
2. Validity period

Not all F-1 visas will be the same!



Visa Integrity Fee

- Will be charged at the time of visa issuance
- \$250 (subject to change)



Other Visa Interview Outcomes

1. Failure to demonstrate nonimmigrant intent - INA 214 (b)

- Burden of proof is on applicant
- Ask the office why your application was denied.
- You should strengthen your application if you intend to apply again.

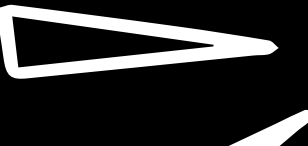
2. Administrative Processing - INA 221 (g)

- Clerical or security related (sensitive technology, terror, clearance)
- Processing time varies, you will be contacted with an outcome

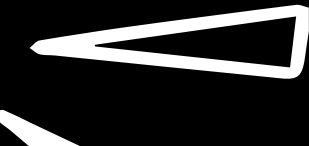
3. Serious Ineligibilities - INA 212 (a)

- Health, previous overstay, security concerns, criminal charge, etc.

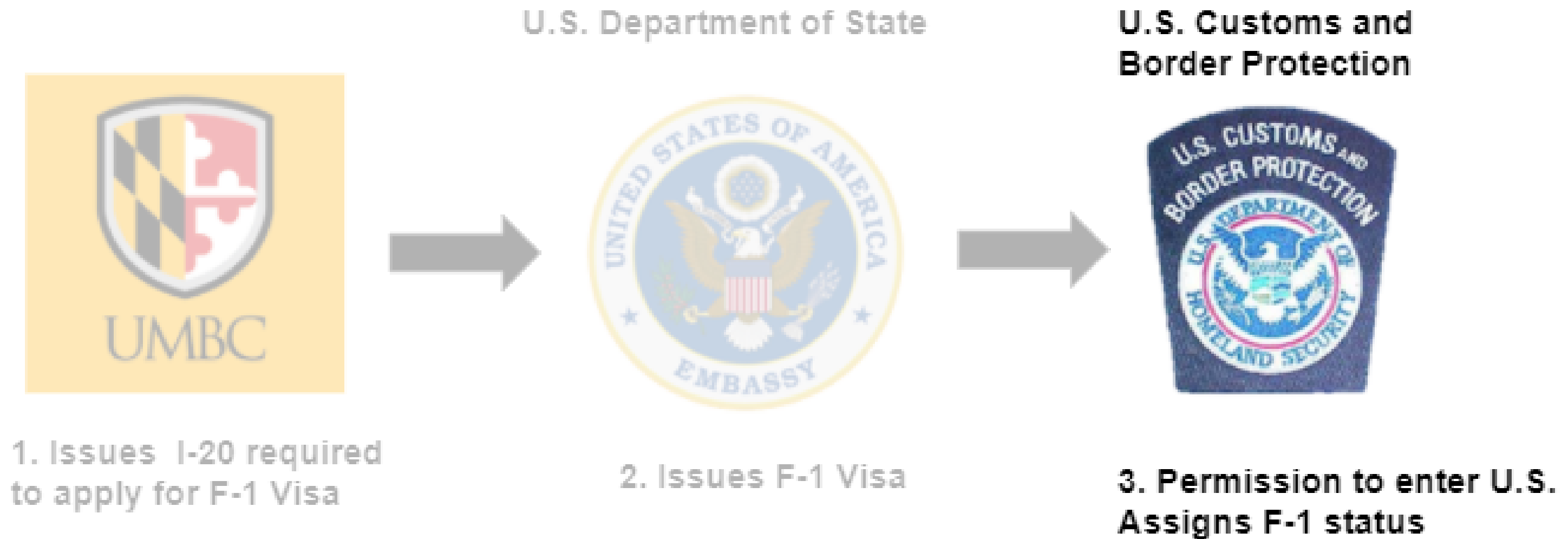




Traveling to the U.S.



The Student Visa Process



Traveling to the U.S.

A visa is not a guarantee of entry to the U.S., it is permission to apply

- F-1 Visa holders can request entry to the U.S. up to 30 days before I-20 start date
 - Dates are noted on your I-20: "Earliest Admission Date"
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has broad authority at U.S. Ports of Entry
 - All arriving “applicants for admission” are inspected by CBP to determine admissibility



Inspection at Port of Entry

Primary Inspection

Required documents:

- Passport with at least six months future validity
- Form I-20

Suggested documents:

- Admission letter/academic transcripts
- Evidence of financial support



Be organized to help the process go smoothly!



Inspection at Port of Entry

Secondary Inspection

- Applicants may undergo secondary because of:
 - SEVIS technical issues
 - Efficiency
 - Extra screening
 - Review documents
 - Officer training issue



Admission to U.S.

Assigns I-94 number:

- i94.cbp.dhs.gov
- Class of admission: F-1
- Admit until date:
 - Specific date OR “D/S”

I-515A

- Temporary admission
- **Must contact OISS!**



Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 51415565885

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 25

Class of Admission **F1**

Admit Until Date **D/S**

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Passport Number :

Country of Issuance : China



Port of Entry Tips

- Stay calm
- **Keep your documents in your carry on luggage**
- Ensure your passport has six months of future validity
- Present F-1 visa foil, **not B-1/B-2**
- Do not lie to a CBP officer
- Know how to contact UMBC in case of emergency
 - After hours: 410-455-5555 ask to speak to “OISS”
 - May be noted on your I-20
- Check your I-94 record
 - Note number of entries and “Admit Until Date”



Visa and Entry Resources

- [“F-1 Visa Process” on issa.umbc.edu](#)
- [U.S. Department of State Student Visa Page](#)
- UMBC’s Information about recent federal orders: [issa.umbc.edu/updates](#)



Your local embassy or consulate is always the best source of information!



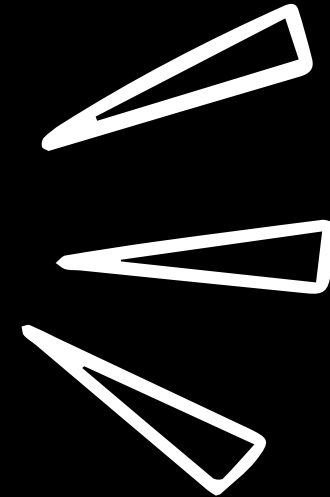
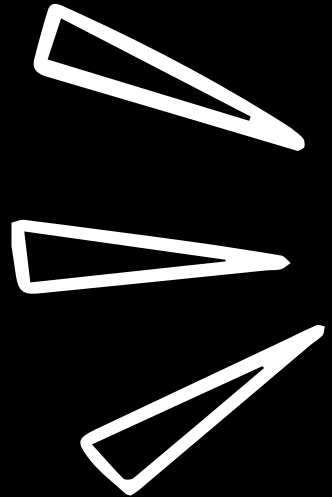
Visa Process Time

Student visas for new students can be issued up to 1 year before the start date of a course of study.

It is best to begin the process as soon as possible to avoid delays!



Spring 2027 Considerations



Things To Consider for Spring 2027

- The earliest you can arrive in the US is 30 days before your I-20 program start date
 - Must enter by the first day of classes - January 25
- Orientations are usually the week before classes start so arrive a bit early!
- Be informed of travel restrictions and vaccine requirements in your home country as well as in the U.S.
- Renew your passport if needed before you travel



Things To Consider for Spring 2027

Transferring your SEVIS record to UMBC

- Transfers can be limited depending on your education level
- Extension of stay application may be required in some situations

If you are planning to transfer in a SEVIS record, please submit a ticket so an OISS advisor can review your situation and provide more information.

iss.umbc.edu/contact



How to Check In with OISS

Please complete your check-in with ISSS.
This is required to become an ACTIVE student!!!

1

Login to the ISSS Portal. Click on "Search Forms"

- Select New Student Arrival Documentation Check-in

2

Select your start term. **Upload** these documents:

- Visa stamp page
- I-94 record

3

Update your personal information on myUMBC:

- U.S. address
- Foreign address
- U.S. phone number
- Foreign phone number
- Emergency contact



Full-time Enrollment

- **All F-1 students must be enrolled Full-time**
 - **Undergraduate: 12 credits**
 - **Graduate: 9 credits**
- UMBC offers in-person, hybrid and online courses
- Only **one online class** can count toward your full-time enrollment, the others must be hybrid or in-person



International Student Orientation

Step 1 Modules



All new international students must complete a series of online orientation modules in Blackboard before the first day of classes.

Instructions will be sent to you via email!



International Student Orientation

Step 2 In-person



OISS will host an in-person orientation and welcome event before classes start. This is different content from the online modules and all new students should attend.

Details will be sent via email!



Other Orientations

Graduate Students- Asynchronous Orientation on Blackboard

Undergraduate Students- Sign-up for Orientation with UGAO

Other Orientations as Assigned

- Graduate Assistants
- Scholars Programs
- Honors College
- Departmental
- Program specific



Deferring Your Admission to a Future Semester

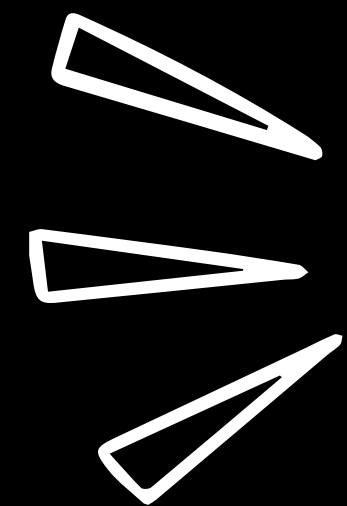
Undergraduate Students:

- Contact UMBC Undergraduate Admissions - admissions@umbc.edu

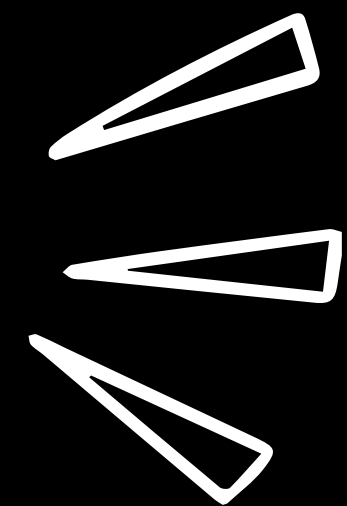
Graduate Students:

- Submit a Deferral of Admission Form
 - gradschool.umbc.edu/students/forms/
- Questions? Contact Graduate Admissions: gradschool@umbc.edu
- Graduate Assistants (RA, TA etc) -Work directly with department on updating your GA offer





Upcoming Events & Resources



Join Our Next Webinar!

Join ISSS info sessions and webinars to learn about UMBC, get your questions answered and hear from advisors and current international students.

Webinar dates and links to join are posted on the
ISSS Events and Webinars Page
issss.umbc.edu/events-and-webinars



Meet other new students on the TAP Admitted Student Community!



REGISTER NOW

**Create your account
and start connecting
today!
Link is in your email.**



Get Connected with UMBC!

Social media

- Instagram
 - @umbclife
 - @umbcglobalstudent

myUMBC Groups

- my.umbc.edu/groups

Department Websites

- Check out your department's website for information about advising, class registration, and other special events.





Congratulations!

We know you will do great! ❤️

