



# Canadian Student Information

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## Obligation to Comply with Immigration Regulations

In terms of immigration regulations, the only difference between Canadians and other international students coming to the United States is that Canadian citizens are not required to apply for an entry visa at a U.S. consulate.

Some Canadians have mistakenly assumed that other regulations that apply to international students do not apply to them. Canadians are subject to the same regulations regarding employment in the United States, requirement for full-time study, and all other provisions for maintaining status. Other than applying for a visa, it is important that you read about and abide by all other provisions relating to F-1 status. It is important Canadian students be vigilant about entering the United States in proper student status, as immigration inspectors are accustomed to admitting Canadian citizens in visitor status.

## Obtaining F-1 Student Status

**To enter the U.S. in F-1 student status, Canadians must present the items listed below to the immigration inspector:**

- Form I-20 from Colorado Heights University
- Valid passport
- Supporting financial documents submitted to obtain the Form I-20
- Proof of SEVIS Fee payment - To pay the SEVIS fee, visit [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) and follow the instructions. Be sure to make a copy of the receipt for your own records.

After the immigration inspector reviews your documents, you will be given an I-94 Admission/Departure card to complete. Be sure to look at your I-94 card before you leave the inspection area to ensure that it has the notations "F-1 D/S" written on it. ALL international students, including Canadian students, must have a correctly annotated I-94 card to confirm current F-1 status. If your I-94 card does not have "F-1" "D/S", you are considered to be in Visitor (B-2) status, a status which does not permit study in the U.S.

## If You are Already in the U.S.

**Currently in a status other than F-1** - Students who do not plan to leave the U.S. before beginning studies at CHU, and are currently in an immigration status other than F-1 are required to change status by application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). In general, non-immigrants who are maintaining lawful status may apply for a change of status to F-1. You should review USCIS change of status (Form I-539) procedures and requirements and consult with the CHU international student adviser for more information or if you have questions or concerns or to review your application before submitting it to USCIS.

**Currently in F-1 Status at Another Institution and transferring to CHU** - Students enrolled in another U.S. school under F-1 immigration status who are planning to enroll at CHU must complete a process in which the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is notified of this change. The transfer procedure begins with your current school "releasing" your SEVIS record to CHU and qualifying for a CHU I-20, and is NOT complete until you report to the student affairs office within 15 days of the program start date on your I-20. The first step is to get a CHU I-20 in a timely manner.

**Continuing Students in F-1 Status at CHU** - If you are completing one program at CHU and are planning to pursue another degree or program at the University, DHS must be notified. The Student Affairs Office needs to issue you a new I-20 for the new program within 60 days of your completion date on your current I-20 or within 60 days of completion of your program, whichever is earlier. Contact the Admissions or Student Affairs Office about qualifying for and obtaining a new I-20.

### Admissions Office

[admissions@chu.edu](mailto:admissions@chu.edu)

303-937-4225

CHU Administration Building, room 209

### Student Affairs Office

[studentaffairs@chu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@chu.edu)

303-937-4280

CHU Administration Building, room 214

\*Sources:

Columbia University