Visa Applications and Immigration Information

Megan McCarthy
Immigration Documents

- Form I-20
- Visa Information
- Preparing to enter the United States
Pre-Arrival – Immigration Documents

- Form I-20
Pre-Departure Orientation
Pre-Arrival

• Once you have received your I-20 or DS-2019, you will need to log on to fmjfee.com to pay the $200 (1,252 RMB) SEVIS fee before you apply for your U.S. visa.

• For more information on the SEVIS fee, please visit ice.gov/sevis/i901 or fmjfee.com.
Pre-Arrival

Once you have scheduled your U.S. visa appointment, you will need to bring the following documents:

- Valid passport and I-20/DS-2019
- Financial documents
- Evidence of English ability (example: TOEFL or IELTS score)
- Evidence of intent to depart the U.S. after completion of studies
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Photograph
VISA APPLICATIONS/IMMIGRATION INFO

Pre-Arrival

• When applying for your U.S. visa, remember:
  – Ties to home country
  – Speak English
  – Speak for yourself
  – Know the program and how it fits into your long-term plans
  – Be brief
Pre-Arrival

When applying for your U.S. visa, remember:
- Additional documentation
- Different rules for different countries
- Employment
- Dependents remaining at home
- Maintain a positive attitude
Pre-Arrival

• Once you have your U.S. visa, you can confirm your travel arrangements to Port Columbus International Airport (CMH)

• You will be permitted to enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start date on your I-20 (no sooner than Monday, July 28, 2014)
An Overview

Pre-Departure Orientation

Immigration restrictions and benefits
Immigration restrictions and benefits

- In order to maintain your F-1 student immigration status:
  - Notify the Office of International Affairs of your local address upon arrival and within 10 days of any address change
  - Enroll in a full course of study during the academic year
    - 12 credit hours for undergraduate students
    - 12 credit hours for graduate students with fellowship
    - Eight credit hours for graduate students with or without GA funding
VISA APPLICATIONS/IMMIGRATION INFO

Immigration restrictions and benefits

• Make normal progress toward completing a course of study
• Extend Form I-20 before its expiration, if necessary
• Obtain approval from the Office of International Affairs prior to reducing enrollment, withdrawing completely or taking a leave of absence
• Inform the Office of International Affairs and update Form I-20 due to a change in major, degree level or financial support
• Keep your passport valid for at least six months into the future
Immigration restrictions and benefits

- Follow proper procedures for transferring schools
- Abide by the F-1 grace period rules
- Limit on-campus employment to a maximum of 20 hours per week while school is in session
- Do not engage in off-campus work unless specifically authorized by an immigration coordinator at the Office of International Affairs