



TO: Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs, Graduate Program Coordinators
FROM: Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs
Cindy Green, Director of the Center for Global Engagement
DATE: October 21, 2024
RE: Deadline for I-20 application for newly admitted international students

To support the Provost's effort to increase the percentage of admitted international graduate students who arrive and enroll, the Center for Global Engagement has established I-20 application deadlines for students residing abroad who need to apply for and receive student visas to enter the US. These deadlines, together with the newly established application deadlines for international graduate students, will help ensure that students have time to apply for and receive visas and arrive before the beginning of the semester.

Once an international graduate student is fully admitted by both the academic department and the Graduate School, he/she receives an email with instructions on requesting an I-20 document needed to apply for a student visa in the home country. The application and all required supporting documentation are submitted online to the Center for Global Engagement. Students with fully completed applications usually receive their I-20s electronically within seven working days. The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) number on the I-20 is required for the student to make a visa appointment at the US Consulate in the home country.

The wait time for the student visa appointment can be up to 200 or more days for fall semester admission, especially from countries such as India, with many students admitted to US universities for fall. After making an online appointment, students may request an expedited appointment based on the semester's start date. Wait times for spring and summer start dates are usually not as long, but deadlines are still established for I-20 requests from the CGE to help ensure that students complete that step promptly. The earlier the visa appointment requests are put in, the likelier the students are to get a visa appointment in time, which will allow them to arrive in time to start classes.

The earlier admission decisions are made, the better the chance of an international graduate student applying for an I-20 from FSU and arriving. Since students apply to multiple universities often apply for their visas with the first I-20 they receive and commit to that institution.

I-20 DEADLINES BY SEMESTER FOR STUDENTS APPLYING FOR A NEW VISA

FALL 2025: I-20 deadline May 15 (Application deadline January 15)

SPRING 2026: I-20 deadline October 15

SUMMER 2026: I-20 deadline March 15

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE U.S. IN F-1 STUDENT STATUS

International students already in the US with student visas admitted to FSU for graduate programs are considered SEVIS transfers. They can easily be issued their I-20s once they show sufficient financial support and their SEVIS record is transferred to FSU from their previous US institutions. This can happen any time before the start of the semester.