



SKY LANGUAGE
PASSION • QUALITY • INTEGRITY

Information for F-1 Students

International (F-1) Students

Sky Language is a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school that is authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enroll nonimmigrant F-1 students. International students are subject to a number of additional requirements than domestic students, and it is our priority to provide you with the current information you need to successfully navigate your way here. Given the current global COVID-19 situation, we know that you are concerned about getting a U.S. student visa and arriving in time for the semester. We want to assure you that despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Sky Language will continue to provide you with the current information you need to successfully navigate your way here. Please make sure to regularly check our website for important information and updates. We are here to help you through, and will be flexible with your arrival to campus.

How To Become a Student at Sky Language

You must apply and be accepted to an official program of study at Sky Language. To download an application form please visit www.sky.edu.

Initial I-20

If you have not been issued an I-20 in the past, or if you have but the SEVIS record affiliated with that I-20 was terminated or completed, you should request an initial I-20. Once you have submitted all required documents for the I-20, Sky Language will begin the process of creating your initial I-20. Once you receive your I-20, it is important to understand your SEVIS document and you must ensure that all information is correct. If there are any mistakes, please contact your advisor as soon as possible to have the information corrected. You will need the SEVIS Form I-20, your Acceptance Letter, proof of financial ability (i.e. bank statement and/or Financial Sponsor form) and your Passport to obtain your student visa in the U.S. Consulate nearest you.

F-2 Dependents

Your spouse and unmarried children under age 21 may join you in the U.S. as F-2 dependents. When you are initially applying to Sky Language, please inform your advisor if you would like to request an I-20 for your F-2 dependent(s).

I-901 SEVIS Fee

If you are issued a new I-20 with a new SEVIS number, you are required to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee. You do not have to pay the fee for change of level, transfer, extension, or other updates to your program of study. F-2 dependents do not have to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee. For complete details and to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee, visit the [Student Exchange and Visitor Program](#) website.

Transfer I-20

If you have an active SEVIS record at another U.S. school and are requesting an I-20 through Sky Language, fill out the Sky Language SEVIS Transfer Status Form and submit it to your current school informing your intent to enroll at Sky Language.

Required Documents

Do not delay in submitting your documents required for issuance of your I-20 to us. If you are waiting for other documents, submit what you have so far, and then submit your final documents once you have them. As soon as you receive your visa and are ready to travel, contact your advisor and we will work with you to schedule your arrival date. If you are unable to submit your documentation needed to receive an I-20 from Sky Language or are unable to obtain your F-1 visa in time to arrive by the start of the semester, contact your advisor and we can advise you on your options. If you have any questions, please contact your advisor at queens@sky.edu or nj@sky.edu and we will work with you to keep you on track. Be sure to check wait times for your local embassy, as some areas may be experiencing wait times longer than 30 days. Complete these steps as soon as possible so that when your local embassy can take your appointment, you will be ready to proceed with your next steps.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

International students may not apply for U.S. federal or state financial aid, but are eligible for other financial aid and scholarships. Your advisor is the best resource for information on scholarships, financial aid, and good student discounts. Because financial aid opportunities are limited for international students, we encourage you to apply for scholarships/grants from private organizations and your home country.

Immunizations/Physical Exams

There are no specific vaccine requirements, but Sky Language strongly recommends that students come to school fully immunized (including vaccination against COVID-19) to protect their health. The U.S. government and Sky Language do not require any physical exams to attend the school.

Housing

Your advisor is an excellent resource for information about local, off-campus, privately owned housing. Sky Language does not offer on-campus housing and F-1 students are responsible for obtaining the appropriate information to secure housing for themselves and any dependents.

Visa Delays

Delays are usually caused by additional security and background clearances due to your citizenship, ties to specific countries, etc. These additional clearance checks may take several weeks to several months to process. There is no way to circumvent or expedite this process. If a security check is going to delay your arrival to Sky Language, please notify the school in writing and an advisor will provide recommendations. For visa application information, please visit the following resources:

- [U.S. Department of State Visas](#)
- [U.S. Visa Wait Times](#)
- [U.S. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\) Fee](#)
- [How to Navigate the U.S. Immigration System](#)



Entering the U.S. (I-20 and F-1 Visa)

You will need a Sky Language I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status, a valid F-1 visa (the visa stamp in your passport) issued by the U.S. embassy/consulate overseas, a valid passport, and your I-901 SEVIS fee receipt. Please be advised that you may not enter the U.S. more than 30 days prior to the start date in section 5 on your I-20. When you enter the U.S., you will receive either an admission stamp in your passport marked "F-1" and "D/S" (duration of status) or a small white I-94 card with the same notation.

Mandatory Check-in for All Students

All new and continuing F-1 students are required to check-in during Student Orientation, or if not starting at the beginning of the school year, within 30 days of their program start date. New students attending Student Orientation on the first day of classes will check-in as part of the program. All other students will be notified via email with check-in details. Failure to check-in will cause your academic program to be terminated automatically and end your lawful immigration status.

Maintaining Legal F-1 Status

As an F-1 student, you must meet certain obligations in order to maintain legal immigration status. Maintaining status is necessary in order to receive the benefits of F-1 status such as program extension, and can be crucial to a successful application for a change or adjustment of visa status in the future. Failure to maintain your non-immigrant status can result in serious problems with immigration and could lead to deportation. Due to the complexity of U.S. immigration regulations, we recommend that you consult with your advisor at Sky Language for details.

To maintain lawful status, an F-1 student must:

- Attend Student Orientation and perform the mandatory immigration check-in.
- Attend the school you are authorized to attend.
- Complete immigration school transfer procedure when necessary.
- Be in good academic standing and make progress towards an academic program.
- Extend your I-20 prior to its expiration date if you are unable to complete your academic program by the original expiration date.
- In the event of change of academic program or level, update your I-20 in a timely fashion in accordance with immigration regulations.
- Maintain full-time enrollment during the academic year.
- Full-time students must enroll in 270 clock hours per term (18 hours of study per week for 15 weeks).
- Suspension, dismissal, enrollment withheld, expulsion, or any other similar action which prevents enrollment may have effect on legal immigration status. See an advisor.
- May not be employed without specific pre-authorization.
- Keep your passport valid at all times. The passport must be valid for at least 6 months into the future on the day you return to the U.S. from a trip abroad.

- Update your current and permanent address information with your advisor within 10 days of moving.

What To Expect When Arriving At A U.S. Port Of Entry

Students should consult their Designated School Official (DSO) prior to traveling. You must have a current SEVIS Form I-20 endorsed for travel and your DSO needs to be able to verify that your SEVIS record is accurate and up-to-date.

Travel Outside the U.S. and Reentry

While studying at Sky Language and traveling outside the United States, you need to have proper documents in order to re-enter the United States. These documents include a valid F-1 visa (the visa stamp in your passport), passport valid 6 months into the future, and your most recent I-20 with a travel signature less than one year old. Citizens of certain countries, returning from Canada, Mexico, and the adjacent islands may be able to re-enter the U.S. with an expired F-1 visa using Automatic Visa Revalidation. To learn more about the basic requirements for an F-1 to re-enter the U.S. after traveling abroad on pleasure or personal business, please visit www.ice.gov/sevis/travel.

Employment

U.S. government regulations require F-1 students to be in the U.S. for the primary purpose of attending school. In general, employment in the U.S. is restricted.

Grace Period

When an F-1 student successfully completes their academic program, there is a 60-day grace period during which the F-1 student and any F-2 dependents may stay in the U.S. During the grace period, you may not work or re-enter the United States.

Reinstatement to F-1 Status

A student who has violated their immigration status and whose status was terminated as a result of that violation may be reinstated to lawful F-1 status at the discretion of an USCIS district director, but only under the limited conditions specified at 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16). The USCIS district director may consider reinstating an F-1 student who makes a request for reinstatement on Form I-539 accompanied by a properly completed Form I-20 indicating the Designated School Official (DSO)'s recommendation for reinstatement.

Student Services

Our advisors are always standing by to help you get settled and maintain legal F-1 status. For more detailed information on policies and resources for international students, including how to obtain a Drivers License, health insurance, or a Student ID card, please speak to your advisor.