

### 3. Pre-Arrival and Arrival Information

#### Getting a US J Exchange Visitor Visa and Your Arrival in the U.S.A.

##### Important Documents for Entering the United States

**DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Visitor Exchange Status:** This document will establish that California State University, Chico has determined that you have met the requirements for its Visitor Exchange Program. In addition to your biographical data, it shows your intended program activity at Chico, and the expected duration of the program. Please check the accuracy of this document right away. You will need this document when you apply for a visa at the United States visa post.

**SEVIS I-901 receipt:** All foreign nationals applying for either F-1 (student) or J-1 (Exchange Visitor) are required to pay a SEVIS I-901 fee. This fee supports operations which track the movement of all students and exchange visitors when they enter or leave the United States. Before you may apply for a visa, you will be required to prove that you have paid the SEVIS I-901 fee and have a receipt. You may pay this fee on line at <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp>.

**U.S. Visa:** The U.S. Visa stamp, placed in your passport at the US Embassy or Consulate, means that you are eligible to request permission **to be allowed to enter** the United States at the Port of Entry (POE), the place where you get off the airplane or ocean vessel upon arrival. In order to apply for a visa, you will need the following documents:

- Valid passport
- Current passport-size photograph
- DS-2019 – Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status
- SEVIS I-901 receipt
- DS-160 Nonimmigrant Visa Application and the appropriate fees
- Proof of funding for your exchange program

The US Embassy/Consulate may have other specific requirements pertinent to your case or country. Visa application details and forms can be found at the following site:

[http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms\\_1342.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_1342.html)

Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy to ask about how to apply for a J-1 exchange visitor visa. A list of Consulates and Embassies can be found at <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.

**Canadian Citizens:**

Citizens of Canada are exempt from applying for a visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. However, you must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and have a receipt ready at the Port of Entry discussed below.

**Non-immigrant intent:** Upon arrival, you will be expected to prove that you intend to return to your country at the conclusion of your visitor exchange program.

**What to expect when arriving in the United States - U.S. Port Of Entry (POE)****On arrival you should have with you:**

- DS-2019 – Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status
- SEVIS I-901 fee Receipt
- Valid Passport with a valid U.S. Visa

**U.S.-VISIT:**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) system called the U.S. Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) records the entry and exit of all foreign visitors to the U.S. An immigration official scans each visitor's fingerprints, photographs them, and checks them against national security and law enforcement databases.

**CPB Inspection:**

Each person (US citizens and non-citizens) arriving in the United States will be subject to inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at the Port of Entry (POE). The CBP officer will interview you and review your immigration documents: **visa, DS-2019, and a valid passport** to determine if you are admissible to the United States.

**Admission into the U.S.A.:**

If the CBP officer finds you admissible, a notation will be made in your passport to indicate your Visa category, and how long you may stay in the United States. In most cases of DS-2019, as well as I-20 holders, your authorized stay will be **D/S** (Duration of Status). **D/S** means that you may stay in the US as long as you maintain your visa status as a scholar. Page 1 of

Form DS-2019 **may also be stamped** with the date of your admission to the US, your visa category and conditions.

**After you pass through CBP (customs and immigration), you've officially arrived. Welcome to the U.S.A!**

**Important:** Take care of any document(s) which the CBP inspector may give you at the POE. This will be proof of your legal admission to the United States. Please keep all of these documents in a safe place.

Caution: **Please check for accuracy of this information before you leave the "check-in" area.**