



Southeastern University
International Student Information Sheet
“WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU TRAVEL”

1. **Planning** is the key. Think several weeks in advance about what you will need for your trip and assemble it. That way, you will not be stressed out at the last minute.
2. Make several **copies** of all of your **important documents**. Those include all of the I-20s you've been issued (from every school you've attended) and the pages in your passport showing your picture, birth date, passport number, expiration date, visa and I-94 card. Keep one set of copies in your carry-on luggage, one set in your checked baggage and leave a set at home preferably with someone who can send them to you if needed.
3. Visit SEU's Office of Student Services to **have your I-20 signed** and to request a **“Travel Letter.”** Do this several days before you travel. Do not wait until the last minute.
4. Order a copy of your **transcript** from SEU's Registrar's Office. It typically takes two business days to have your order processed.
5. Request an **“Enrollment Certification”** from SEU's Registrar's Office. An “Enrollment Certification” is a letter stating you are currently enrolled as a student at Southeastern University. It typically takes two business days to have your request processed.
6. If you are **traveling outside of the United States**:
 - A. Check the **visa** (for the United States) in your passport to learn if it has **expired**. If so, you will have to apply at a US Embassy or Consulate to have it renewed before returning to the United States.

(Please Turn Over)

- B. If you have **changed your visa status to F-1** in the United States, **you will have to apply for an F-1 visa at a US Embassy or Consulate** before returning to the United States. Remember, you are currently in “F-1 status” but you do not have an “F-1 Visa.”

** If you need to get your F-1 visa renewed or if you need to apply for an F-1 visa, you should contact the US Embassy/Consulate in the country where you are traveling BEFORE you travel to learn how long the process may take. Warning: Currently, it often takes 8-12 weeks to apply for a visa so you may need to take the entire term as a vacation. Also, if possible, you may want to make an appointment with the US Embassy in the country you're traveling to BEFORE you leave the U.S. We recommend this because it often takes 3-4 weeks just to get an appointment.*

- C. If you are **traveling outside of the United States to a country other than your home country**, call the embassy of that country to learn if **you need a visa to enter that country**. If so, ask what the requirements, cost and timeframe are to apply for a visa. Keep in mind that it often takes 2-3 weeks to process a visa application.
7. Get current **“Financial Support Documents”** from your financial sponsor. If the documents you have submitted to SEU are less than 6 months old, you may request a copy of them from SEU’s Office of Student Services. You may be asked for them by an immigration official at the airport/border when you return to the United States. If you need to renew your visa, you will definitely be required to show your current/recent “Financial Support Documents” at the US Embassy where you apply for the visa renewal.
8. If you are **traveling in the United States**, make sure to **carry your original passport and I-20** with you at all times. If you are stopped by any government official (police, border patrols, immigration officers, etc.), you will be required to show them your original documents.
9. If you go home, remember to bring back a **traditional costume from your country** to wear at SEU’s International Festival and other occasions. Also, make sure to bring back **posters/art/decorations/material from your country**. You’ll also need those for SEU’s International Festival.
10. HAVE A **SAFE TRIP AND A GREAT TIME!!!!!!** We look forward to welcoming you back to SEU!