



## Where to Apply for an F or J visa

As a Canadian Citizen, you are not required to apply for a U.S. visa at the U.S. Embassy, so you will present the following documents at your U.S. Port of Entry to obtain F-1 or J-1 status:

- 1) Your completed I-20 or DS-2019 (Form issued by LLU International Student & Scholar Services)
- 2) Your passport (valid for at least 6 months in the future)
- 3) Your original financial documents (bank statements, loan approval letters etc.)
- 4) Receipt from your having paid the **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) I-901 fee**. This fee is a *U.S. Department of Homeland Security* fee requirement and is not a visa application fee. For more information about payment of the SEVIS I-901 fee, go to: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html#>
- 5) Your acceptance letter to Loma Linda University

Also, please refer to the following websites for additional information on steps to take once your visa status has been granted. This site also lists the immigration regulations you will need to be aware of and abide by in order to maintain a legal status while you are studying in the U.S.:

<http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

<https://educationusa.state.gov/>

## When to Enter the United States

You are allowed to enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days before the program start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019 form. If you attempt to enter earlier, U.S. Customs has the authority to deny you admission into the U.S. or they could grant you entry under the B-1/B-2 Tourist Visa. If you enter the U.S. as a tourist, you will not be able to start your program until you have the correct visa status. The only way to obtain the F-1/J-1 visa status is to exit the U.S. and reenter showing your I-20/DS-2019, passport, and LLU acceptance letter.

In order for International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to check you in, you must enter the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student only. Your entry status will be noted on your *I-94 Departure Record* which can be found online at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

Your record will be listed online within 24 hours after you enter the U.S. ISSS will look up your record at your check-in appointment.