VISA INSTRUCTIONS
Legal Requirements for Application of F-1 Visa and Arrival in the U.S

All foreign students are required to have a valid passport and F-1 visa to pursue a full course of study in the United States. Included in your acceptance packet is your official SEVIS I-20 form. For updated visa information, you can go to www.UnitedStatesVisas.gov.

Please read and follow all instructions below:

APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

♦ You must apply for your F-1 visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy in your home country. Please note your SEVIS ID# listed on the top right corner of your I-20 form (example on back) and go to the following website to complete Form I-901 and to pay the fee online with a credit card: www.fmjfee.com. The SEVIS fee is NOT payable to the IEC. It is paid to DHS (Department of Homeland Security). The SEVIS fee is generally a one-time fee and is non-refundable. **Proof of payment must be presented to consular officials during the visa application process.**

♦ You should bring with you to your interview your acceptance packet (I-20 form, acceptance letter from the IEC), your valid passport and receipt of payment of SEVIS fee.

♦ You should be prepared to show verification of financial support to establish you have sufficient financial resources so you will not have to work while in the U.S.

♦ You must also be prepared to demonstrate that you have a residence in a foreign country that you have no intention of abandoning.

♦ Once the visa is issued, you should keep your I-20 with your passport always. **Remember** you must present your original I-20 to the immigration officer upon arrival at the airport. **Do not** put your original I-20 in your suitcase when you travel!

ENTERING THE U.S.

♦ Effective April 2013, the paper **Form I-94** will no longer be provided to travelers entering the United States. With the new CBP (Customs and Border Protection) process, a CBP officer will stamp the travel document of each arriving non-immigrant traveler. **Please see instructions next page for detailed information.**

♦ You may be informed by the consular office before leaving your country if you will be subject to special clearance procedures. Some travelers may be directed to private workstations in the arrivals hall, where special registration, photos and electronic fingerprints will be taken. Additional interviews and verification processes may also be conducted.

♦ **Make sure your passport is stamped and the correct visa and status is marked by the immigration official.** The stamp shows the date you are entering the U.S. The official has to write on the stamp the visa category (F-1) and the duration of your status (usually for F-1 students they indicate D/S which means “Duration of Status”). It may be possible that instead of D/S, the official will indicate a specific date.

IF YOUR VISA REQUEST IS DENIED...

♦ You must notify the IEC office by email at least four weeks prior to the start date of the program for which you have applied. If you decide to defer to the next semester we will update your SEVIS record and issue a new I-20.

IF YOU WERE ISSUED AN I-20 FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL

♦ If you applied to multiple schools, please note that you are only allowed to have one active SEVIS record. We strongly recommend that you contact the other schools to cancel your registration in order to avoid problems with your immigration record.
With the new CBP (Customs and Border Protection) process, a CBP officer will stamp the travel document of each arriving non-immigrant traveler. The admission stamp will show the date of admission, class of admission, and the date that the traveler is admitted until. Travelers will also receive on arrival a flier alerting them to go to CBP.gov/I94 for their admission record information. Travelers may visit www.cbp.gov/I94 to retrieve their electronic I-94 number. Upon entering the U.S., travelers will receive a paper with instructions on how to access the website.

Here is an example of how the electronic Form I-94 screen will look:

We advise IEC students to print out the electronic I-94 soon after arrival in the U.S. and keep it with their passport and I-20. The I-94 number will be required to complete the visa intake interview upon arrival on campus.