

### Dos and Don'ts for International Students

#### DO

- Write down the number for the Office of International Education and Student Services and keep it with you at all times: **240-906-3335 / 301-860-3830.**
- Have all your documents ready to show the United States Customs and Border Protection Officer. You will be asked to show:
  - Passport
  - F-1 student visa
  - Form I-20
  - Financial documents
  - \*Always keep these documents on you. **Do not** check them with your suitcase.
- Be prepared to explain to U.S. Customs why you are entering the country.
  - The officer will ask a few questions.
  - Be prepared to explain that you are here to study at Bowie State University.
- Make sure the Customs and Border Protection Officer stamps your passport or I-94A and writes "F-1 D/S" in the stamped area.
  - **DO NOT** leave the area without this stamp and handwritten notation.
  - If the stamp and handwritten "F-1 D/S" notation is missing, **please walk back to the inspector at the port of entry and have them fix the issue immediately.**
    - For students arriving by air or sea: They will stamp your passport.
    - For students arriving from Canada or Mexico: They will stamp your I-94A.

#### DO NOT

- **DO NOT** Arrive earlier than 30 days before the date indicated on your form I-20. You risk being denied entry or being admitted as another visa category (i.e., visitor instead of student).
- **DO NOT** Arrive later than the program's start date without permission.
- **DO NOT** Pack your immigration documents in your suitcase. (Keep them with you at all times)

## Once You Enter the United States

- Check-in and report to the Office of International Education and Student Services when you arrive on campus. Bring the following documents for inspection and duplication:
  - Passport
  - Current F-1 Student Visa
  - Original Bowie State University form I-20
  - Original Forms I-20 from any other U.S. schools that you have attended.
  - Your original I-94 stamped or I-94A Card.
- If you do not have your I-20 and are issued an I-515A, please **report directly to the Office of International Education and Student Services**. We will need to fix your status **IMMEDIATELY**.
  - You may be required to attend a secondary inspection. This is normal – do not worry.

## Additional Notes:

All international students entering the U.S. by air or sea will no longer receive a paper I-94 card (the little white card in your passport). Instead, you will receive a stamp in your passport that shows:

- Date of admission
- Class of admission (F-1)
- Date admitted to D/S.

All international students entering the U.S. by land borders (Canada and Mexico) will be issued a paper I-94A with a stamp showing:

- Date of admission
- Class of admission (F-1)
- Date admitted to D/S.

We look forward to seeing you soon!  
Please contact us if you have questions!

Office of International Education and Student Services (OIESS)

Address: Thurgood Marshall Library, Room 1120

Phone: 240-906-3335 / 301-860-3830.

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