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Arrival-Departure Record (I-94 Form)

The Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) is an important form every student entering the United States must fill out. The I-94 Form shows the date you arrived in the United States and the “Admitted Until” date, the date when your authorized period of stay expires. You will receive a blank I-94 on the airplane before arriving in the United States. The first airport you land in the U.S. is your port-of-entry.

You will be asked to complete the form prior to inspection. Review the form for accuracy and legibility before presenting it to the border inspector. Make sure the information you fill out on Form I-94 exactly matches the information shown on your Form I-20 issued by the school you are going to attend in the US and the information shown on your F-1 Student Visa pasted on your passport.

During the inspection, the U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) Officer will ask you questions about the purpose of your trip, how long you will be in the United States, and your residence abroad. Upon completion of the inspection, the CBP Officer will affix the I-94 Form to your passport.

Prior to departing the area, review the class of admission and period of admission recorded on the admission stamp. The information transcribed on the I-94 Form at the port-of-entry is the basis for all further immigration-related activity in which you may engage while in the United States.

When you leave the country, you should give the I-94 Form to your airline representative at the airport you are departing the United States. The I-94 Form that has been approved by a CBP Officer proves that you arrived in the country legally and that you have not stayed beyond the period of your authorized stay.

Be sure to turn in the I-94 or I-95 Form to the proper authorities on departure. This returned portion of the form proves you did not violate U.S. laws by staying in the country too long. It is proof that you obeyed U.S. immigration laws, which is essential if you want to return to the United States at a future date as an immigrant or nonimmigrant.

For more information, please refer to U.S. Customs & Border Protection website resources:

- U.S. Customs & Border Protection: <http://www.cbp.gov>
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection Forms: <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/forms/>
- FAQs on the Arrival-Departure Record (I-94 Form) & Crewman Landing Permit (I-95 Form): http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/vwp/arrival_departure_record.xml
- Overview of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP): http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/vwp/vwp.xml