



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for NEW CANADIAN STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

▪ ENTERING THE U.S. IN F-1 STATUS

▫ Form I-20 and U.S. Visa

International Admissions will issue you a Form I-20. Canadian citizens, who do not need a visa to enter the U.S., must present this form at the border in order to enter in F-1 and F-3 (part-time border commuter student) status. Legal permanent residents of Canada require a visa and must present the I-20 at the time of visa application at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. You can obtain information on visa application and make an appointment for a visa interview at a U.S. Consulate in Canada by accessing the website www.nvars.com. You may also contact the UDM International Services Office (ISO) for more information.

▫ SEVIS Fee

All students making an initial entry to the U.S. in F-1 and F-3 status are required to pay a SEVIS fee. The fee supports the automated system that keeps track of students and exchange visitors to ensure that they are maintaining legal status while in the United States. Students must have evidence of having paid this fee in order to be processed for student status at the border or to apply for a U.S. visa if a visa is required. Download instructions for paying the SEVIS fee at http://www.udmercy.edu/apply/international_students/iso/for_ms/pdf/SEVIS%20FEE.pdf.

▫ Initial Entry to the U.S.

At the U.S. border, present your signed I-20, receipt for payment of the SEVIS fee, evidence of sufficient funds to support your studies in the U.S., and proof of Canadian citizenship accompanied with a valid photo ID (or documents indicating legal permanent residency plus valid passport with U.S. visa).

The inspecting officer will stamp page 1 of the I-20 and return the document to you. The officer will also issue you an I-94 card indicating the date you were admitted to the U.S. The card will be marked with *D/S* (duration of status), which means that, as long as you maintain your F-1 status, you may remain in the U.S. or reenter the U.S. after a temporary absence of no more than five months. You must present the stamped I-20 and the I-94 card each time you cross the border to attend classes.

Part-time border commuter students are not admitted for *D/S* but are issued a new I-20 for each new semester or term of attendance at the school.

▫ Departure and Reentry to the U.S. on an F-1 Status

Once you have entered the U.S. in F-1 status, you cannot reenter the country after a temporary absence unless an

authorized staff member in the International Services Office has certified that you are in valid status by signing page 3 of your I-20 form. You can obtain this signature when you check in at the International Services Office. (See *Arriving on Campus* below). If you travel frequently, you should obtain a new signature at the beginning of each subsequent term. You should also obtain a signature before leaving for summer vacation so that you will have no problems at the border when you reenter for the fall term.

▫ Maintaining Your F-1 Status

In order to maintain F-1 status, you must be enrolled for a full course of study during the fall and winter terms each academic year. Summer is considered a vacation semester unless it is your first semester at the University. Full time study consists of a minimum of 12 credits for undergraduates or 9 credits for graduate students.

▪ ARRANGING FOR HOUSING

If you are planning to live on campus, please submit your application online at <http://www.udmercy.edu/reslife/live-on-campus/apply/index.htm> for the fall semester no later than July 14, for the winter semester, no later than December 1, and for the summer semester, no later than April 7. All applications will be processed and students who submit a residence hall contract will be expected to live in the halls for the academic year. If you have questions about on-campus housing, please contact the Office of Residence Life reslife@udmercy.edu, 313-993-1230.

▪ ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

You are required to report to the International Services Office (2nd floor Student Center Building) no later than the date marked at item # 5 on page 1 of your I-20 form. Check-in times are Monday-Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please bring your I-94 card, your I-20 form, and your passport. We will photocopy your immigration documents and take your picture for our records. If you are subject to English proficiency testing (see below), you will be given a reservation for the test. We will also sign page 3 of your I-20 form so that you may depart and reenter the U.S. in F-1 status.

▪ ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

TESTING AND PLACEMENT

If you are a legal permanent resident of Canada whose native language is not English, before you can register for classes, you must take the UDM English proficiency test, The Detroit Test of American English, unless you qualify for exemption under one of the following criteria: a) you have a degree from a U.S. or Canadian institution; b) you have a recent TOEFL

score of at least 250 (600 paper test) with a writing test score of at least 5, or an internet-based TOEFL score of 100 with a writing sub-score of 24. Based on the results of the test, you may either be exempted from taking English-language classes or placed into one of the following: a) Intensive English (23 hours a week); b) Intermediate English (9 hours a week); c) Advanced English, for those who need work on writing only, (3 hours a week). Students placed in Intermediate and Advanced English are required to take additional courses in their major field of study. A sample Detroit Test is available [online](#)

▪ TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SKIN TEST

The University requires all international students have a TB skin test performed at the University Health Center when they arrive on campus. Students born and raised in Canada may present evidence of a TB test performed within the last twelve months in lieu of the test administered by the University.

▪ MAINTAINING YOUR STATUS

In order to maintain your F-1 status, you will be required to enroll in a full course of study throughout your program. A full course of study is defined as 12 credit hours for undergraduate (Bachelor's degree and post-degree) students and 9 credit hours for graduate (Master's or doctoral degree) students. You must be enrolled full-time in the fall and winter terms each academic year. Summer is normally a vacation term; however, if you begin your studies in the summer term, you must be full time that summer only.

Students who are informed are not likely to experience significant difficulties with immigration requirements. Please remember that the staff at the International Services Office will be available to provide information and assistance to you throughout your stay at UDM. In the meantime, if you should have any questions, please call, fax, or e-mail our office.

*We are looking forward to seeing you at
University of Detroit Mercy!*

International Services Office

Claire Ofiara, Director
ofiaract@udmercy.edu

Amanda McPherson, Foreign Student Advisor
amanda.mcpherson@udmercy.edu

*Michael Morgan, Coordinator
American Language and Culture Program*
morganmj@udmercy.edu

*Jaime Yung, Assistant Coordinator
American Language and Culture Program*
yungjm@udmercy.edu

Shamika D. Adams-Morgan, Office Assistant
iso@udmercy.edu

*Steven Coddington, Assistant Director of Admissions
Admissions Office*
coddinsm@udmercy.edu

Telephone: 313-993-1205
Fax: 313-993-1192
E-mail: iso@udmercy.edu



We want great things for you!