

# > New International Student

## PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

Office of International Services

Website: [ois.jhu.edu](http://ois.jhu.edu)

Email: [ois@jhu.edu](mailto:ois@jhu.edu)

### Welcome to Johns Hopkins University!

To help you prepare for your journey, the Office of International Services (OIS) has created this pre-arrival checklist to guide you through the important tasks ahead. We recommend beginning this process (from the top) as soon as you receive your JHU admission. Leading up to your arrival, OIS will also hold informative workshops on pre-arrival preparation and send important time-sensitive reminders.

For detailed instructions, please refer to the OIS website, [New Student page](#).

### Determine SEVIS Release Date

#### How do I know if I am a SEVIS Transfer Student?

You may be a transfer student if you have an active F/J status with another school/institution, and plan to enroll in a new full-time program in the U.S. at an SEVP-Certified school, like JHU.

#### What is a SEVIS Release Date?

It is the date you are requesting your SEVIS record to be released from your current school to JHU.

**OIS cannot issue your I-20/DS-2019 until your SEVIS record is released/transferred to JHU.**

#### How do I select a SEVIS Transfer Release Date?

Work with your current school's international student office to strategize which SEVIS Release/Transfer date is best, discuss SEVIS transfer deadlines, and confirm that you are eligible to transfer in 'active' status.

Your SEVIS transfer release date must be BEFORE the start of your JHU program (ideally at least 10 business days prior).

For detailed transfer steps, please refer to the [Transferring to JHU page](#).

### Transfer your SEVIS Record to JHU

#### Request Current School to Transfer SEVIS Record

- Follow your current school's SEVIS Transfer process to request a transfer of your SEVIS record to JHU.
- Your current school may request the following information:
  - Your SEVIS Release Date
  - JHU SEVIS School Code (refer to [Transferring to JHU page](#))
  - JHU Admission Letter (if applicable)

#### Request your I-20/DS-2019 from JHU OIS

- Review JHU OIS [New Students page](#) and, [Transferring to JHU page](#)  
Note: J-1 Students should [contact OIS](#) for specific transfer instructions
- Prepare Required Documents: Valid Passport, Eligible Financial Documents, Current Immigration Documents (I-20/DS-2019, visa stamp), Dependent Information (if applicable)
- Submit a [Request for a I-20 or DS-2019](#) in [iHopkins](#)

### Prepare your JHU Arrival

#### Receive I-20/DS-2019 Document from OIS

- OIS will notify by email when I-20/DS-2019 is available (in iHopkins)
- Review for accuracy, print, and sign
- Register and attend [OIS pre-arrival workshops](#)

#### Prepare Travel Documents (If Applicable)

- If outside the U.S. and visa is expired, schedule a visa appointment with your local [U.S. Embassy](#).
- Prepare Travel Documents: Valid F/J Visa, Valid Passport, I-20/DS-2019, JHU Admission Letter, Financial Documents
- If emergency at border after business hours, call OIS  
Emergency Line: 443-240-1938

#### Finalize Housing

- On-Campus Housing:  
Finalize housing with [university housing](#)
- Off-Campus Housing:  
Refer to [OIS website](#) for off-campus resources/options

### Check-in and Activate Immigration Status

#### Validate your Status with OIS

- Complete [OIS Check-in Process](#) to activate your F/J status. This must be completed *within 15 days of* the start of your program.
  - Watch [New Student Orientation Video](#)
  - Complete the [Orientation Quiz](#) (for F-1 students only) and/or [OIS Check-in Form](#) (F-1 & J-1 students) via [iHopkins](#)

#### Maintain Immigration Status

- Review [OIS website](#)
- Maintain full-time enrollment
- Do not exceed online enrollment limitations
- Report any changes to OIS (i.e. change of major, address change) via [iHopkins](#)
- Keep I-20/DS-2019 valid at all times