

## **Canadian Citizens Only: Acquiring F-1 Visa Status at a U.S. Port of Entry**

*This information is intended only for students who are citizens of Canada and does not apply to non-Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.*

Canadian citizens do not need visas to participate in an educational program in the U.S. However, Canadian students **do** need to obtain an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility from the college, and request F-1 visa *status* at the port of entry.

**Though you do not need a physical visa, all other F-1 immigration regulations apply. You must ensure you enter the U.S. as an F-1 student and not a visitor when you arrive for school. If you enter as a visitor, you will need to return to Canada and reenter the U.S. in F-1 status in order to begin your studies at Morrisville.**

**Step 1:** When you receive your I-20, check the following:

- The spelling of your name. Is it on your I-20 exactly how it appears on your passport?
- Are your date of birth, country of birth, and country of citizenship all listed correctly?
- Is it signed by the Designated School Official (DSO) on page one? The I-20 **must** be signed using **BLUE ink**. (Note: The I-20 will not be signed by the DSO on page two as the signatures on page two are only for reentry into the U.S.)
- Please read the instructions on page three of the I-20 and sign page one. Signing the I-20 means that you understand the regulations of F-1 visa status. Use **BLUE ink!**

**Step 2:** Pay the SEVIS I-901 registration fee (\$350 USD) online at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). More information on the SEVIS fee can be found at [www.ice.gov/sevis/i901](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901). Once you pay the fee, print your receipt and keep it with your I-20.

**Step 3:** When entering the U.S., you will need to provide the immigration officer at the port of entry with:

- The original Morrisville-issued I-20 certificate **signed in BLUE ink**
- SEVIS I-901 fee receipt
- Valid Canadian passport
- Proof of financial support to cover one full year's cost of attendance, including scholarship letter if awarded, bank statements, loan statements, etc.

*Be prepared to answer questions regarding your purpose for entering the U.S., where you are studying and why, how you will financially support yourself, and what your plans are after you graduate.*