

Dear Student:

There are many things to consider as you are preparing to come to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). Be sure to review everything in this packet prior to arriving in the US.

You will find information on:

- Paying the SEVIS Fee
- The Visa Application Process
- Living In and Getting Around Baltimore
- Entering the US
- Check in Requirements
- Cultural Exchange Opportunities

Finally, at the back of this packet, you will find your original 1-20, certificate of eligibility for F-1 Student status under the sponsorship of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). **You will need to write your signature, and date the bottom of the 1st page of the I-20.**

PAYING THE SEVIS FEE

Please be aware that a \$350 SEVIS fee must be paid to the Department of Homeland Security prior to obtaining your visa. Further information about the fee may be obtained on the SEVIS fee website <http://www.fmjfee.com>, and in the enclosed SEVIS fee handout.

VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

Please consult the website of your local U.S. embassy or consulate for information on scheduling a visa appointment and any required documents and fees. You can find links to local U.S. embassy and consulate websites around the world at <http://www.usembassy.gov>.

LIVING IN AND GETTING AROUND BALTIMORE

There are many housing options in Baltimore. We recommend utilizing the UMB Housing website to locate either on campus or off campus housing.
<http://www.housing.umaryland.edu/>

Rental housing costs can vary greatly. It is important to research a location in which you will feel comfortable.

Public transportation is also present in Baltimore. There is a free bus, The Charm City Circulator, <http://www.charmcitycirculator.com/>. There is also transportation available through the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) <http://mta.maryland.gov/>. Students get a reduced cost for MTA or some parking options. <https://www.umaryland.edu/parking/parking-at-umb/student-parking/>

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

At the U.S. port of entry, you should present your original I-20 form, SEVIS fee receipt, your passport, valid F-1 visa, and financial support documentation used to obtain Form I-20. Please visit www.cbp.gov/i94 after your entry to the US to view your admission's record; you'll need to upload this when you check-in online.

CHECK IN REQUIREMENTS

You must check in with our office within 15 days of your program start date. You must complete the New F-1/J-1 Student Check-in e-form in Sunapsis. You will need to upload a copy or picture of your **I-20, passport, and F-1 visa. This check-in with the OIS is a requirement and results in the activation of your SEVIS record.** We'll also need your current street address in the US.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

For more information: <http://www.umaryland.edu/ois/connection-programs>:

- Program Events for incoming students-Please Sign UP!
 - Events offer a variety of programs to help new students connect with other international students while learning about all Baltimore has to offer.
- Global Perspectives Conversation Program-Please Sign UP!
 - The program offers student and post-doctoral fellow participants a one-hour, facilitated weekly conversation to explore common interests; discuss concerns about U.S. academic and social life; and identify and deliberate matters of cultural, social, and political importance.
- UMB also offers numerous activities of which you may take part; once on campus you will receive the Campus Life Weekly email, which will keep you apprised of student activities you may join. You can also view the calendar of events online: <http://elm.umaryland.edu/calendar/>

We hope you enjoy your stay at the University of Maryland Baltimore.

Sincerely,

The Office of International Services