

# Avoiding a Form I-515A

If you receive a Form I-515A, “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor,” it is very important that you send your response to SEVP within 30 days. If you do not, it will negatively affect your international student status in the United States and you may be required to depart the United States.

## Designated School Officials (DSOs)

Do the following to help your students have a smooth entry/return to the United States:

- Register students in SEVIS at the beginning of each academic session
- Check SEVIS regularly to ensure your current student records are in Active status
- Submit correction requests in SEVIS well before the student plans to travel abroad to correct any errors on student records
- Sign the second page of the Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status”
- Remind your students to hand-carry their documents when entering the United States

If you arrive at the U.S. port of entry without all of your required documents, or with unsigned or missing information, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer may deny your entry into the United States. As an alternative, the officer has discretion to issue you a Form I-515A, which allows you temporary entry into the United States for 30 days.

For more detailed information, visit [studyinthestates.dhs.gov/515a](http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/515a).

## Students

Ensure you have the following in your hand when you enter the United States:

- Valid passport
- Form I-20 signed on the second page
- Evidence of financial support
- Acceptance letter from school
- Paper receipt of Form I-901
- 24-hour emergency contact info for your DSO

Check with your DSO to see if your SEVIS record is in the correct status before you travel.

