

Understanding the I-20

I have received my scanned copy of my I-20, now what do I do.

- A. Make sure your name and its spelling, birth date, country of birth and citizenship are correct.
- B. "Form Issue Reason" must say "Initial Attendance"
- C. School information should always have "New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology".
- D. Make sure your "Education Level" is correct. For example: Master's, Bachelor's, or Doctorate.
- E. "Major" must be correct, there will never be anything in "Major 2".
- F. "Normal Program Length" will be 60 months for Bachelor's, 36 months for Master's, and 72 months for Doctorate. The length of the program is more than you will normally need to finish your degree.
- G. "Program English Proficiency" will always say "Required".
- H. "English Proficiency Notes" will always say "Student is Proficient".
- I. "Program Start Date" and "End Dates" will always be the first day of classes. It is your responsibility to be on campus the week before classes start. Some departments may require you to be on campus earlier.
- J. You may arrive in the United States no more than 30 prior to your I-20 "Program Start Date" and not earlier.
- K. "Tuition and Fees" is the amount of money you can expect to pay for classes, books, and fees.
- L. "Living and Expenses" This is the amount of money you can expect to spend for food, housing, transportation, and other personal expenses for the full calendar year (including summer living expenses).
- M. "Expenses for Dependents" This is the amount of money you can expect to spend to support your family members traveling with you. The more family members you bring, the higher this number will be.
- N. "Other" Will always be blank.
- O. "Personal Funds" is the amount of money that you have promised to pay for your educational needs. More or less money may actually be needed.
- P. "Teaching Assistantship" or "Research Assistantship" is the amount of money that NMT is going to pay you over the course of spring and fall semesters unless you also have summer support. Taxes will be taken out of each paycheck. You will be expected to pay your tuition and living expenses out of this money.

- Q. "Funds From Another Source" this is the money that your sponsors or family have promised to pay towards your educational expenses. More or less of this money may be needed.
- R. "On Campus Employment" will always be blank.
- S. Totals: "Student Funding for: 9 months" must always be greater than "Estimated Average Costs for: 9 Months".
- T. "Remarks" will always be blank.
- U. "School Attestation" will always have my signature in blue ink for the original document. I will not sign the scanned copy I send to you for proof reading.
- V. "Student Attestation" This is where you sign your name and date of signature. You must sign the document before going to consulate for interview. Make a copy of the document for your records.
- W. There is nothing for you to sign on the next two pages. Read them carefully, but no action is necessary.

For your consulate interview you must have your SEVIS ID Number to set up the interview. Number can be found on the top left side.

For your interview you will need your passport, I-20, financial documents, notarized translation of your transcripts, financial documents, DS-160 form confirmation, photographs, and the letter of acceptance from NMT.

F1 students are required to pay the \$200 SEVIS fee via the following link:

<https://fmjfee.com/i901fee/desktop/index.jsp?view=desktop>

Each country has its own rules on what is required to receive a visa please consult the consulate web site in your country.