

Arriving at the U.S. Port of Entry

(I-94, Immigration Clearance Procedures, & Connecting Flights)

Security Screening

United States security screenings are a bit different from the ones you might have experienced in Malaysia, or any other countries. Here are the points you should note:

- Before you walk through the metal detector, you are required to remove your shoes, jacket, watch and belt to be screened through the x-ray machine.
- Laptops have to be taken out of your luggage before it can be screened through the x-ray machine. There should not be anything above or below the laptop when it passes through the x-ray machine.
- All liquids, gels or aerosols must be in 3oz or smaller containers. Large containers that are half full, such as half-used toothpaste tubes are not allowed.
- For a complete list of items prohibited from flight boarding, please visit www.tsa.gov

Please walk through the procedures swiftly and promptly, and follow the instructions of the TSA officers. Any delaying or confusing activities might lead to suspicion and you may be subject to secondary inspection. Secondary inspections cause delays and you might miss your flight.

Immigration Clearance

Always hand-carry your documents. Do not check your documents in your baggage as you might not have access to them when needed. In addition, if your baggage is lost or delayed, you may not be able to enter the States.

When you arrive in your first entry point in the States, you will have to clear US Immigration and Customs & Border Protection. The customs officer may ask you several routine questions, like what is your purpose of visiting the US. Please answer these questions accurately and truthfully. In addition, please ready your documents for presenting to the Officer:

I-94 Electronic Form – US-bound flights no longer utilize a physical White Card for the I-94 Immigration Form. All are now electronically entered. When crossing Customs & Immigration, the Immigrations Officer will stamp the I-94 details in your passport.

After 24-hours, you will be able to retrieve the I-94 records online by visiting this website below. You will need your I-94 in order to apply for your Social Security Card and to receive your salary.

Website: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/consent.html>

If for some reason you are unable to retrieve your I-94, please contact the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at their contact details below:

Website: https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/1697/~/what-to-do-if-your-i-94-is-not-found-online

Passport and DS-2019 Form – Present these documents to the customs officer when requested. The officer will scan your DS-2019 Form and stamp your date of entry to the States. Your passport will also be stamped.

Fingerprints & Photograph – You will be required to be fingerprinted and photographed by the officer. This is for security purposes, so please follow the instructions of the officer promptly.

Other Documents – You might be asked to present your other documents too, including your Proof of Funds, Job Offer Letter/EOAF and Insurance Details. Therefore, please be ready to present them for review upon request.

Connecting Flights

Some of you may have to take connecting flights from your first point of entry in the States, to the airport closest to your job location. You would have booked connecting flights together with your international flight. Please check the flight information board for any information on your flight, and make sure you arrive at the flight gate with time to spare.

Luggage Collection

Please remember to collect your luggage from the baggage claim area. If you do not see your luggage on the carousel, it may have been taken off by airport personnel for the next flight's luggage arrival. If you are unable to locate your luggage, please seek assistance from the baggage counter. DO NOT leave the airport without your luggage.

**** If your luggage is delayed or lost, please lodge a complaint at the airport IMMEDIATELY. Don't wait until you have left the airport and arrived at your employers as it may be too late.*

Contact Your US Sponsor and Employer to report arrival

Once you cleared customs and collected your luggage, contact your U.S. Sponsor immediately. Your U.S. Sponsor should be the first to be notified of your arrival. Also, please make sure your employer is contacted as well, either by yourself or the U.S. Sponsor, to notify them of your arrival. Last but not least, remember to call your family to let them know you have arrived safely.

In addition, please contact your pickup, if you had made any arrangements for transport.

SEVIS Registration

Every student must register themselves with SEVIS within 1 day upon arrival in the U.S. Be reminded that you have to register AFTER your arrival. DO NOT register yourself BEFORE your arrival.

To do so, you are required to contact your U.S. Sponsor at your given details. Alternatively, some U.S. Sponsors allow you to perform the check-in online.

Applicants who fail to check-in with their U.S. Sponsor risk having their SEVIS status terminated, dismissed from the program, and will be forced to return home early. This procedure violation is permanently recorded in SEVIS and could negatively affect any future visa applications.