

Important Immigration Information- Please Read

Dear New Canadian Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Enclosed is your Form I-20. This official U.S. document is your Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status that enables you to apply for an F-1 student visa and entry into the United States. Contact either Bonnie DeVaney or John Harrington by email to confirm that you received this Form I-20. Look it over to make sure the information is correct. If there is an error, contact the Admissions Office right away. **Do not sign** the form at this time. When you reach the U.S. Border Crossing, the Immigration Official will want to witness you signing the Form I-20.

Prior to going to the U.S. Border, you must complete Form I-901 online at <http://www.fmjfee.com> and pay the SEVIS fee. The U.S. Congress passed this law requiring international students to pay a fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security before a student visa would be processed. The purpose of the SEVIS I-901 fee is to cover costs of administering and maintaining SEVIS, the tracking database that ensures visa compliance. The cost of this fee is \$100 US for F-1 students. This is a one-time fee, as long as you keep your student visa current during your studies at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. As a citizen of Canada, you must pay the fee and allow 48 hours for processing before you appear at the U.S. port-of-entry or Border. You will not be able to pay the fee at the border crossing. (Note: If you have documentation of your Native American status, you do not need an I-20 form, nor do you have to pay the SEVIS fee. Notify the Admissions Office.)

The fastest way to pay the fee is to file Form I-901 online at <http://www.fmjfee.com>. Read the instructions contained on this webpage and click on "Proceed to I-901 form and payment". Then click on "I-20" and "Ok", complete the form, pay by credit or debit card and print a receipt. Completing the form online will help ensure that you provide all the information in the correct format. Print and retain a copy of your receipt. Having the printed receipt when you enter the U.S. will speed up the verification process. For additional information on the SEVIS I-901 fee payment and filing process, access the SEVP web site at <http://www.ice.gov/SEVIS/i901>. Please feel free to contact us as well.

We suggest that if at all possible that you cross at the Perth-Andover, New Brunswick /Fort Fairfield, Maine Border. This crossing is only 12 miles from the University and we have good relationships with the Immigration Officials assigned there. It is also close enough so if there is a problem, we are in a position to personally assist you. Note: If you are bringing any valuables (electronic equipment, photography equipment, computer, etc.) to the U.S., be sure to stop at the Canadian Border Office to register them with customs, otherwise you may be charged tariffs upon returning to Canada.

At the U.S. Border Crossing, the Immigration Official will take the I-20 Form, process it and return your I-20 with an I-94 card attached to it. We recommend that you make a copy of your I-20 and I-94 card. Keep your original I-20 and original I-94 card **with you at all times** and place the copy in a safe place.

You must notify us that you have arrived on campus no later than September 12, 2008. You can “**check in**” by completing the International Student Contact Form at South Hall, 1st Floor Reception Desk, any time between the hours of 8a.m.-4:30p.m. Monday through Friday OR you can “**check in**” using the on-line form at:

<http://www.umpi.maine.edu/acad/counselling/isrform/form.htm>

Be sure to have your local contact information - address, telephone number and current email address. If you do not “check in” at the start of school and cross the border to Canada, it is possible that you may not be allowed to re-enter the U.S.

You must attend one of the following New International Students meetings on **Monday September 1st** to learn about your program, the University and how to maintain your legal status in the U.S.

- 12:00pm lunch meeting - 1st year and transfer students (not Teacher Certification), Alumni Room, Campus Center
- 1:00 p.m. - Teacher Certification meeting, Multi-purpose Room, Campus Center

You must also attend the Campus Orientation Program for ALL new international students at 2:30pm, Monday Sept 1st in the Multi-purpose Room, Campus Center.

For other helpful information, check out the University’s International website at:

<http://www.umpi.maine.edu/acad/counselling/is.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to meeting you on campus.

Jessica Blackstone
Admissions Office

Jessica.blackstone@umpi.edu
207-768-9532

Barbara DeVaney
International Student Advisor

Barbara.devaney@umpi.edu
207-768-9750

John Harrington
International Student Advisor

John.harrington@umpi.edu
207-768-9589

NEW CANADIAN STUDENT I-20 CHECKLIST

Before Leaving for the U.S. Border Crossing

- Verify as soon as possible receipt of your I-20. Email either: Bonnie at barbara.devaney@umpi.edu or John at john.harrington@umpi.edu
- Complete Form I-901 online at <http://www.fmjfee.com> and pay the SEVIS fee. Remember to print your receipt to take with you to the border.

Documents Checklist - Bring the following documents when entering the U.S. for the first time to attend the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

- Form I-20
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Passport
- Photo Identification or Birth Certificate
- \$6.00 (U.S. funds) to cover the cost of the Student Visa processing fee
- Your acceptance letter to the University of Maine at Presque Isle
- Financial Documents (all loan papers, bank statements, etc.) that show you have the necessary funds to support yourself while you are in the U.S. attending school.

Crossing the Canadian and U. S. Border

- Stop at the Canadian Border Office to declare valuables you are taking to the U.S.
- Give the U.S. Immigration Official the Form I-20, photo ID, SEVIS fee receipt, and any other requested documents and pay \$6.00 (U.S. funds) for the processing fee.
- Form I-20 will be processed and returned to you with the I-94 card attached to it. This is an official U.S. document. Keep it safe and keep it with you at all times.
- Be advised that your vehicle and personal belongings may be subject to search.

When you arrive at the UMPI Campus

- Photocopy your form I-20 and I-94 card- Keep the originals with you at all times. Put copy in a safe place.
- Attend one of the following New International Students meetings on Monday, September 1:
 - 12:00pm lunch meeting - 1st year and transfer students (not Teacher Certification) Alumni Room, Campus Center
 - 1:00 p.m. - Teacher Certification meeting, Multi-purpose Room, Campus Center
- Attend the Campus Orientation for ALL new international students at 2:30pm, Monday Sept 1st, in the Multi-purpose Room, Campus Center.
- “Report in” no later than September 12th at South Hall, 1st Floor Reception Desk, any time between the hours of 8a.m - 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday OR you can “report in” using the on-line form at: <http://www.umpi.maine.edu/acad/counselling/isrform/form.htm>**