

# Avoiding an I-515

Receiving a Form I-515A is not good, but it is better than having to travel back home. It is **serious** and can become a real problem if you do not pay attention.

## P/DSOs

Do the following to assist your students in having a smooth entry/return to the US:

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the I-20
- Remind your students to **hand-carry** their documents when entering the US

If you arrive at the U.S. port of entry without all of your required documents or with unsigned or missing information, the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) 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 US:

- Valid passport
- I-20 signed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page
- Evidence of financial support
- Acceptance letter from school
- Paper receipt of 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.



**Note:** Keep the student record in Active status when on vacation unless they do not plan to return.

Call the SEVIS Help Desk:  
800-892-4829 for technical assistance

Call the SEVP Response Center:  
703-603-3400 for policy questions

**Remember: SEVIS Sessions = semesters / quarters / trimesters**