



# External Doctor of Pharmacy Program

*Offered jointly by the University of Washington and Washington State University*

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## Frequently Asked Questions Request for an I-20 Form December 9, 2002

### **Who must have permission to enter the US?**

Naturally all foreign nationals must obtain appropriate permission to cross the US borders for any purpose.

### **For what purposes can a foreign national enter the US?**

The policy is implemented by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (see [www.usais.org](http://www.usais.org)) and is beyond the scope of this document. Students tell us that crossing the border to attend sporting events or concerts, to visit friends, or to shop is a relatively easy and painless process. Unfortunately students, full-time or part-time, are managed differently. The process to cross the border begins with submitting a *Request for an I-20 Form*.

### **I thought this process was already worked out. I saw a press release last summer that said something about a "75 mile rule." Can't we follow that?**

You probably heard about a waiver process the INS instituted in August of 2002. It was designed to allow part-time students attending schools within 75 miles of the border to continue in their programs. It was a temporary fix and will expire at the end of 2002. The new visa process explained here is the one you must follow.

### **Why does it cost so much money to submit a *Request for an I-20 Form*?**

At least three university offices must track each student and his or her course, and then report to the federal government. As you might expect most of the time when additional requirements are imposed onto states by the federal government no funding comes with the mandate. Our state law will not allow the taxpayers of Washington to pay so the fee must be charged to the few people who use it.

### **Does the University report us to the US government?**

Yes, part of the process after submitting the *Request for an I-20 Form* requires a report. We do not think the University will report to the INS without the I-20 being applied for. We believe we will only have to provide information on foreign students who apply to enter the US.

### **If I must enter the country more than once within a term (e.g., Winter 2003 Quarter) will I require more than one I-20 request?**

Yes, the system does not work well for commuter students. You will need to request an I-20 each workshop or clerkship you attend in the US.

**I am coming from a country other than Canada. Does this procedure hold?**

This procedure will probably work for a non-Canadian foreign national student. However, you will need to present the I-20 form to a US Consulate in your home country to obtain the proper visa for entry into the US. This would take more advanced notice.

**Can you provide a generic example of a “letter of financial guarantee?”**

We will try to put an example on the webpage. The financial guarantees take many forms depending on the source of funding. If it is personal funds, then a copy of a bank statement showing sufficient funds on deposit to cover the expenses of the program is sufficient. If funding comes from a family member (e.g., father, mother), then a letter from that person saying that they will assume responsibility for the your expenses along with at copy of their bank statement is sufficient. Finally, if funding is from an employer or corporate sponsor, all that is needed is a letter from that organization indicating that they will be responsible for the your expenses. For a workshop your financial guarantee may be modest, you will have already registered for the course, and you are staying for only a day to two.

**What kind of visa (F1, F2, other?) will Canadian ExPharmD students be using the I-20 application for?**

The I-20s for the Pharm D workshops and clerkships would be used to obtain an F1 visa, although you will not need to actually get the visa to cross the border from Canada.

**What health insurance coverage do I need?**

We believe your employer coverage will be sufficient to issue an I-20. You must show evidence of having minimum coverages for medical benefits, a medical evacuation benefit, and a repatriation benefit.