CPB Announces Discontinuance of Admission Stamps on Forms I-20 and DS-2019

As of August 10, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will no longer provide admission stamps on Forms I-20 & DS-2019 for initial and returning international students and scholars who are traveling with F and J visas and are seeking admission to the United States. This change is consistent with USCIS policy to also stop stamping forms I-20 & DS-2019 as part of its online immigration benefits system. This change is designed to move USCIS and CBP to an online system and away from paper based systems.

Although placing an admission stamp on Forms I-20 & DS-2019 has been a longstanding practice at CBP it is not required and is not an indicator of lawful status or academic program duration. As it has been a longstanding practice some state and federal benefit granting agencies have required international students and scholars to present stamped versions. If a student or scholar is rejected by a state benefit granting agency due to an unstamped Form I-20 or DS-2019, USCIS asks that you make an appointment through InfoPass to have your form I-20 or DS-2019 stamped at a local USCIS office. This is a transitional step that will be discontinued after November 21, 2012.

International students and scholars who encounter issues with state or federal benefit applications should contact the Office of Immigration & Academic Appointments at 212-327-8057 for further assistance.