

For Canadian Students Enrolled in the AICAD/New York Studio Residency Program

Canadian students enrolled in the AICAD/New York Studio Residency Program must be issued the DS-2019 form by SVA and enter the U.S. as an exchange student, J-1 visa status.

Canadian citizens are required to obtain J-1 Exchange Visitor status in order to legally study in the U.S. but do not need to apply for the visa stamp at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in Canada. In order to obtain J-1 status, you must show the DS-2019 form issued by SVA, **proof of SEVIS fee payment** and supporting financial documentation to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer at the port of entry.

Do not enter the U.S. as a visitor, either with the Visa Waiver Program or as a B-1/B-2 Visitor because full-time study is prohibited under the visitor visa status. If you are mistakenly admitted under the incorrect visa status, you will be required to depart the U.S. once and return in J-1 visa status.

Process

1. Apply to the AICAD/New York Studio Residency Program and receive the acceptance letter
2. Submit the Declaration of Finances forms to SVA
3. Receive the DS-2019 Form from SVA
4. Pay the \$180 SEVIS Fee
5. Purchase health insurance coverage as specified
6. Enter the U.S. carrying the DS-2019 form and SEVIS fee payment receipt

Step 1: Apply to the AICAD/New York Studio Residency Program and receive the acceptance letter. The visa process begins after you are accepted to the program.

Step 2: Submit the Declaration of Finances forms to SVA. There are two forms you must submit.

1. Declaration of Finances Form – Download at sva.edu/iso
2. Bank statement or letter proving that you have sufficient finances to cover the cost of attendance.

Send the forms to:
SVA International Student Office
209 East 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

Step 3: Receive the DS-2019 Form from SVA. You must receive the original DS-2019 form and sign it. Scanned copies will not be provided as you must present the original form at the U.S. border.

Step 4: Pay the \$180 SEVIS Fee.

Step 5: Purchase health insurance coverage as specified in the J-1 Exchange Visitor Health Insurance Requirement Form (Download at sva.edu/iso).

Step 6: Enter the U.S. carrying the DS-2019 form and SEVIS fee payment receipt.