



**International Student and Scholar Services**  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
University Center 207A  
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

p: 410.455.2624 // [iss.umbc.edu](http://iss.umbc.edu)

February 20, 2023

Dear Officer,

Please allow us to address a few COVID-19 related concerns for admitted UMBC students.

### **Fall 2023 Course Delivery Method**

UMBC is operating with a combination of online, hybrid, and face-to-face modes of instruction as defined by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Broadcast Message: "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Potential Procedural Adaptations for F and M nonimmigrant students" issued on March 9, 2020, and SEVP's subsequent "Clarifying Questions for Fall 2020 Based On March 9 Spring Guidance Broadcast "on July 24, 2020. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs clarified in their July 24, 2020 update and FAQ entitled "SEVP Online Course Guidance for F and M Students for Fall 2020" that students who satisfy SEVP requirements may be eligible for a visa.

UMBC is committed to ensuring that all new international students meet these requirements and participate in non-online course options. Thus, admitted UMBC students are eligible to apply for a student visa and should be granted admission to the United States as an F-1 student. Thank you for assisting the student in this process.

### **Electronically Issued 1-20**

Please accept the electronically signed 1-20 carried by this student. This 1-20 has been issued in accordance with the SEVP COVID-19 guidance, which also assures cooperation from DOS and CBP.

The SEVP's COVID-19 FAQ can be found here:  
<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf>

The following language from the May 12, 2020, update, is relevant to this situation:

### **Electronic Form 1-20 Issuance (page 6):**

1. Can DSOs electronically send signed Forms 1-20 to students instead of physically mailing the forms?

A. Yes, due to COVID-19, DSOs may electronically send Forms 1-20 to student email addresses listed in SEVIS.

2. What methods can DSOs use to sign and send Forms 1-20?

A. SEVP has identified the following methods to sign and send the Form 1-20:

- Email a scanned version of the physically signed Form 1-20;
- Email a digitally signed Form 1-20 using electronic signature software; or
- Email a digitally signed Form 1-20 that contains a digitally reproduced copy of a physical signature.

3. Has SEVP worked with both the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in developing the policy to accept the use of electronic signatures during the COVID-19 emergency?

**A. SEVP coordinated with both the Department of State and CBP regarding the policy to allow electronic issuance and signing of Forms 1-20 for the duration of the COVID19 emergency. Both agencies are in support of this action. SEVP continues to respond to any issues raised or questions from both agencies about this policy and will provide clarity as needed.**

Thank you in advance for honoring this guidance and accepting this student's electronically issued and signed 1-20. We appreciate your understanding in this unusual time.

Best regards,



David Anguish  
Assistant Director, PDSO/RO  
International Student & Scholar Services  
Center for Global Engagement  
UMBC – University of Maryland, Baltimore  
County [iss.umbc.edu/contact](http://iss.umbc.edu/contact)

**SEVIS ID: N0033757663**

<b>SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME</b> Nandala  <b>PREFERRED NAME</b> Bala Murali Krishna Nandala  <b>COUNTRY OF BIRTH</b> INDIA  <b>CITY OF BIRTH</b> Nizamabad  <b>FORM ISSUE REASON</b> INITIAL ATTENDANCE	<b>GIVEN NAME</b> Bala Murali Krishna  <b>PASSPORT NAME</b>   <b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> INDIA  <b>DATE OF BIRTH</b> 22 FEBRUARY 1999  <b>ADMISSION NUMBER</b>	<b>Class of Admission</b>  <h1>F-1</h1>  <b>ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE</b>
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**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

<b>SCHOOL NAME</b> University of Maryland, Baltimore County University of Maryland, Baltimore County  <b>SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL</b> Mercedes Arias International Student and Scholar Advisor	<b>SCHOOL ADDRESS</b> 1000 HILLTOP CIR, University Center 207, BALTIMORE, MD 21250  <b>SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE</b> BAL214F00062000 27 JANUARY 2003
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**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b> MASTER'S  <b>PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY</b> Required  <b>START OF CLASSES</b> 31 AUGUST 2023	<b>MAJOR 1</b> Computer and Information Systems Security/Auditing/Information Assurance 11.1003  <b>ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES</b> Student is proficient  <b>PROGRAM START/END DATE</b> 31 AUGUST 2023 - 25 MAY 2025	<b>MAJOR 2</b> Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, Other 30.9999  <b>EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE</b> 01 AUGUST 2023
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**FINANCIALS**

ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 25,120	Personal Funds	\$ 0
Living Expenses	\$ 13,669	Funds From This School	\$
Expenses of Dependents (0)	\$	Family	\$ 41,788
Health Insurance	\$ 2,999	On-Campus Employment	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 41,788</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 41,788</b>

**REMARKS**

**SCHOOL ATTESTATION**

I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

<b>X</b>	<i>Mercedes Arias</i>	<b>DATE ISSUED</b>	<b>PLACE ISSUED</b>
<b>SIGNATURE OF:</b> Mercedes Arias, International Student and Scholar Advisor		15 March 2023	BALTIMORE, MD

**STUDENT ATTESTATION**

I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. **Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.**

<b>X</b>			
<b>SIGNATURE OF:</b> Bala Murali Krishna Nandala		<b>DATE</b>	
	<b>X</b>		
<b>NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>ADDRESS (city/state or province/country)</b>	<b>DATE</b>

**SEVIS ID: N0033757663 (F-1)**

**NAME: Bala Murali Krishna  
Nandala**

**EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS**

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**CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION**

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**AUTHORIZED REDUCED COURSE LOAD**

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**CURRENT SESSION DATES**

CURRENT SESSION START DATE	CURRENT SESSION END DATE

**TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT**

This page, when properly endorsed, may be used for re-entry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each endorsement is valid for one year.

Designated School Official	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

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**STUDENT ATTESTATION.** You should read everything on this page carefully. Be sure that you understand the terms and conditions concerning your admission and stay in the United States as a nonimmigrant student before signing the student attestation on page 1 of the Form I-20 A-B. The law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.

**FORM I-20.** The Form I-20 (this form) is the primary document to show that you have been admitted to school in the United States and that you are authorized to apply for admission to the United States in F-1 class of admission. You must have your Form I-20 with you at all times. If you lose your Form I-20, you must request a new one from your designated school official (DSO) at the school named on your Form I-20.

**VISA APPLICATION.** You must give this Form I-20 to the U.S. consular officer at the time you apply for a visa (unless you are exempt from visa requirements). If you have a Form I-20 from more than one school, be sure to present the Form I-20 for the school you plan to attend. Your visa will include the name of that school, and you must attend that school upon entering the United States. You must also provide evidence of support for tuition and fees and living expenses while you are in the United States.

**ADMISSION.** When you enter the United States, you must present the following documents to the officer at the port of entry: 1) a Form I-20; 2) a valid F-1 visa (unless you are exempt from visa requirements); 3) a valid passport; and 4) evidence of support for tuition and fees and living expenses while you are in the United States. The agent should return all documents to you before you leave the inspection area.

**REPORT TO SCHOOL NAMED ON YOUR FORM I-20 AND VISA.** Upon your first entry to the United States, you must report to the DSO at the school named on your Form I-20 and your F-1 visa (unless you are exempt from visa requirements). If you decide to attend another school before you enter the United States, you must present a Form I-20 from the new school to a U.S. consular officer for a new F-1 visa that names the new school. Failure to enroll in the school, by the program start date on your Form I-20 may result in the loss of your student status and subject you to deportation.

**EMPLOYMENT.** Unlawful employment in the United States is a reason for terminating your F-1 status and deporting you from the United States. You may be employed on campus at your school. You may be employed off-campus in curricular practical training (CPT) if you have written permission from your DSO. You may apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for off-campus employment authorization in three circumstances: 1) employment with an international organization; 2) severe and unexpected economic hardship; and 3) optional practical training (OPT) related to your degree. You must have written authorization from USCIS before you begin work. Contact your DSO for details. Your spouse or child (F-2 classification) may not work in the United States.

**PERIOD OF STAY.** You may remain in the United States while taking a full course of study or during authorized employment after your program. F-1 status ends and you are required to leave the United States on the earliest of the following dates: 1) the program end date on your Form I-20 plus 60 days; 2) the end date of your OPT plus 60 days; or 3) the termination of your program for any other reason. Contact your DSO for details.

**EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.** If you cannot complete the education program by the program end date on page 1 of your Form I-20, you should contact your DSO at least 15 days before the program end date to request an extension.

**SCHOOL TRANSFER.** To transfer schools, first notify the DSO at the school you are attending of your plan to transfer, then obtain a Form I-20 from the DSO at the school you plan to attend. Return the Form I-20 for the new school to the DSO at that school within 15 days after beginning attendance at the new school. The DSO will then report the transfer to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). You must enroll in the new school at the next session start date. The DSO at the new school must update your registration in SEVIS.

**NOTICE OF ADDRESS.** When you arrive in the United States, you must report your U.S. address to your DSO. If you move, you must notify your DSO of your new address within 10 days of the change of address. The DSO will update SEVIS with your new address.

**REENTRY.** F-1 students may leave the United States and return within a period of five months. To return, you must have: 1) a valid passport; 2) a valid F-1 student visa (unless you are exempt from visa requirements); and 3) your Form I-20, page 2, properly endorsed for reentry by your DSO. If you have been out of the United States for more than five months, contact your DSO.

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION BY SCHOOL.** DHS requires your school to provide DHS with your name, country of birth, current address, immigration status, and certain other information on a regular basis or upon request. Your signature on the Form I-20 authorizes the named school to release such information from your records.

**PENALTY.** To maintain your nonimmigrant student status, you must: 1) remain a full-time student at your authorized school; 2) engage only in authorized employment; and 3) keep your passport valid. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in the loss of your student status and subject you to deportation.

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO SCHOOLS

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Failure to comply with 8 CFR 214.3(k) and 8 CFR 214.4 when issuing Forms I-20 will subject you and your school to criminal prosecution. If you issue this form improperly, provide false information, or fail to submit required reports, DHS may withdraw its certification of your school for attendance by nonimmigrant students.

**ISSUANCE OF FORM I-20.** DSOs may issue a Form I-20 for any nonimmigrant your school has accepted for a full course of study if that person: 1) plans to apply to enter the United States in F-1 status; 2) is in the United States as an F-1 nonimmigrant and plans to transfer to your school; or 3) is in the United States and will apply to change nonimmigrant status to F-1. DSOs may also issue the Form I-20 to the spouse or child (under the age of 21) of an F-1 student to use to enter or remain in the United States as an F-2 dependent. DSOs must sign where indicated at the bottom of page 1 of the Form I-20 to attest that the form is completed and issued in accordance with regulations.

**ENDORSEMENT OF PAGE 2 FOR REENTRY.** If there have been no substantive changes in information, DSOs may endorse page 2 of the Form I-20 for the student and/or the F-2 dependents to reenter the United States. If there have been substantive changes, the DSO should issue and sign a new Form I-20 that includes those changes.

**RECORDKEEPING.** DHS may request information concerning the student's immigration status for various reasons. DSOs should retain all evidence of academic ability and financial resources on which admission was based, until SEVIS shows the student's record completed or terminated.

**AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION.** Authority for collecting the information on this and related student forms is contained in 8 U.S.C. 1101 and 1184. The Department of State and DHS use this information to determine eligibility for the benefits requested. The law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.

**REPORTING BURDEN.** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement collects this information as part of its agency mission under the Department of Homeland Security. The estimated average time to review the instructions, search existing data sources, gather and maintain the needed data, and complete and review the collection of information is 30 minutes (.50 hours) per response. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless a form displays a currently valid OMB Control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Office of the Chief Information Officer/Forms Management Branch, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 801 I Street NW Stop 5800, Washington, DC 20536-5800. Do not send the form to this address.