

Tax Information Workshop for International Students

2021 – Tax year 2020

F-1 Visa Only

TAX REMINDERS

- We are ***NOT*** tax advisors or tax professionals.
- We can give you ***tax info***, but not tax advice.
- Always use a tax professional if you have questions about tax forms.
- We will talk about information for students studying on an F-1 visa only (F-2 dependents are included).

TAXES

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who must file tax forms?
2. What tax forms do I need to file?
3. What documents do I need to file my taxes?
4. What resources are there to help me fill out the tax forms?
5. Where do I mail the tax forms?
6. What is the deadline to file my tax forms?

1. Who must file tax forms?

Were you physically present in the U.S. during 2020?



Yes = you need to file tax forms for 2020



No = you do not need to file tax forms for 2020

- All international students are expected to complete and file tax forms with the U.S. federal government, **whether or not they had earned income during the tax year.**
- In addition, F-2 and J-2 dependents must also file certain tax forms. **Filing taxes is a requirement for maintaining your status.**

2. What tax forms do I need to file?

Did you have U.S. source income in 2020?



Yes

- Form 1040NR or Form 1040 NR-EZ
- Form 8843



No

- Form 8843

Printing Tax Forms:

- Download a copy from the IRS Official Website
<http://apps.irs.gov/app/picklist/list/formsInstructions.html>

Form 8843

- **WHY** – Filing this form helps maintain your F-1 status.
- **WHO** – Individuals who must file Form 8843 include:
 - All individuals who have non-resident status for tax purposes (F-1 Visa)
 - International students who did not earn any income in 2020
 - International students who were in the US for 1 or more days in 2020
 - All F-2 Visa holders, regardless of age.

COMMON QUESTION

You do not need to have either a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to submit Form 8843.


Section Top of Form 8843

- Write your full name as it appears on your visa/passport
- You only have a U.S. taxpayer identification number if you have a Social Security Number. If not, leave it blank.
- If you are only filing this form – write in your address in country of residence and your address in the U.S.
 - If you are also filing the 1040NR, you can mail the 2 forms together, and do not need to write your addresses at the top.

Section

Part 1 – General Information

- **Question #1:** F-1 visa & date you entered U.S.
- **Question #2:** What country are you a citizen in?
- **Question #3A:** What country issued your passport?
- **Question #3B:** Write your passport number.
- **Question #4A:** Write number of days you were in the US.
- **Question #4B:** Write o (zero).



Section

Part 3 – Students

Question #9

Whatcom Community College
237 W. Kellogg Road, WA 98226
(360) 383-3000

Question #10

Kelly Kester, Director of International Programs
237 W. Kellogg Road, WA 98226
(360) 383-3245

Section

Part 3 – Students

- **Question #11:** Write the type of visa you held while in the US in the years listed.
- **Question #12:** Check “No,” unless you have been in the US for more than 5 years.
- **Question #13:** Check “No,” unless you are changing your visa status or recently changed your visa status.

REMINDER: Don't forget to sign and date on the 2nd page!

Form 1040NR

(NR = Non-Resident)

- **WHO** - All international students who earned income in the U.S. during 2019 must file the 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ form.
- **WHAT** - Your employer will mail a W-2 form to you in January. This form income information you will need to complete the 1040NR.
- **WHY** - Many students will get money back from the government after they file their taxes!

COMMON QUESTION

You may need to report scholarship or grant money in the 1040NR (depends on the total amount of income). **If you are not sure, use a web resource or tax expert to determine whether you owe taxes on your scholarships.**

3. What documents do I need to file my taxes?

- You will need information from the following documents to fill out the forms correctly:
 - Passport & visa
 - I-20 (for school address info)
 - Record of entries into the U.S. (I-94 travel history)
 - Social Security Card (if you have one)
- Students who earned income during 2020 will also need:
 - W-2 form (let IP know if you did not receive this form by the end of January) Scholarship or grant statements (if applicable)

4. What resources are there to help me fill out the tax forms?

REMINDER: Whatcom staff are NOT tax advisors.

Here are some free and low-cost resources to help you:

- **Form 8843 Online Wizard (Free)**
 - Free online tool that helps you fill out the 8843 tax form
<https://www.internationalstudent.com/tax/form/>
- **Sprintax Tax Software for 1040NR filing (\$37.95)**

Form 8843 Online Wizard

Free online tool to help you fill out your 8843 tax form!

- 1.** Go to this website:
www.internationalstudent.com/tax/form
- 2.** Fill in your information using easy questions
- 3.** Click “Create” and it will print out a filled-in PDF copy of your Form 8843 with your personal information!

Filing Taxes with Sprintax

How to use Sprintax (\$37.95):

- Register with [Sprintax.com](https://www.sprintax.com) and follow the instructions
- Complete the online questionnaire
- Sprintax will prepare your tax return for you!

5. Where do I mail the tax forms?

Mail Form 8843 & 1040NR, if no payment is due to:

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service

Austin, TX 73301-0215

U.S.A.



If enclosing a payment with 1040NR, mail your forms to:

Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 1303


Charlotte, NC 28201-1303

U.S.A.



6. What is the deadline to file my tax forms?

Did you have U.S. source income in 2020?

 **Yes = April 15, 2021 (1040NR or 1040NR-EZ)**

 **No = April 15, 2021 (Form 8843 Only)**

NOTE: Bank interest is not considered U.S. source income.

Helpful Resource Links

- **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**
 - Forms and instructions:
<http://apps.irs.gov/app/picklist/list/formsInstructions.html>
 - Quiz to determine which forms you need to file:
<https://www.irs.gov/help/ita/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return>
- **Form 8843 Online Wizard:**
<https://www.internationalstudent.com/tax/form/>
- **Sprintax Tax Software (1040NR filing only):** www.sprintax.com
- **I-94 Travel History:** <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94>
- **Frequently Asked Questions:**
<https://www.internationalstudent.com/tax/faqs/>