

International Student Filing Checklist

(2025 Tax Year)

Everything F-1 and J-1 students need to stay compliant and stress-free.

Identify Your Filing Situation

Your Situation	What You Need to File	IRS Form(s)	Due Date	Notes / Tips
No U.S. income (you didn't work or get taxable scholarship)	Statement of nonresident status	Form 8843	June 15, 2026	Every F-1 or J-1 student must file this, even with \$0 income.
Earned on-campus or CPT/OPT income	Federal tax return for nonresidents + status statement	Form 1040-NR + Form 8843	April 15, 2026	You'll likely receive a W-2 from your employer.
Received a scholarship, stipend, or fellowship	Report taxable portion of income	Form 1040-NR + Form 8843 + Form 1042-S	April 15, 2026	Scholarships for tuition are tax-free; stipends for living costs are taxable.
Had U.S. taxes withheld (check your pay stub!)	File to get your refund	Form 1040-NR + Form 8843	April 15, 2026	Many students qualify for a refund if tax was withheld.
Left the U.S. before filing	File from abroad or online	Form 1040-NR (mail) or via FileTax.com	Same deadlines	Use your U.S. mailing address or current address abroad.

Gather Your Tax Document

Document	What It Shows	Where You Get It
Form W-2	Wages and taxes withheld	From your campus employer or HR portal
Form 1042-S	Scholarships, stipends, or treaty-exempt income	From your university's payroll or international office
Form 1099	Other income (like contract work or bank interest)	From payers or your bank
Form 8843	Statement for exempt individuals	FileTax.com auto-generates it for you
I-20 / DS-2019	Proof of student or exchange status	From your university's international office
Passport + Visa info	Identification and visa category	Keep scanned copies handy

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ Forgetting to file Form 8843
- ✗ Filing Form 1040 instead of Form 1040-NR
- ✗ Missing your tax treaty benefits
- ✗ Ignoring Form 1042-S
- ✗ Waiting until April 14

