



Who must file tax forms for 2020 tax season?

Even if you did not earn any income, if you were physically in the US on F or J status anytime between 1 January – 31 December 2020, you're obligated to file a Form 8843 with the IRS (the Internal Revenue Service, or 'IRS', are the US tax authorities).

Meanwhile, if you earned more than \$0 of taxable US source income, you may need to file a federal tax return with the IRS. Depending on your individual circumstances, you may also need to file a state tax return(s).

Tax Filing Deadline:

15 April 2021 is the last day for residents and non-residents who earned US income to file Federal tax returns for the 2020 tax year.

Who is considered Resident or Non-resident for Federal Tax Purposes:

Generally, most international students & scholars who are on F, J, M or Q visas are considered non-residents for tax purposes. International undergraduate students on J-1 & F-1 visas are automatically considered non-resident for their first five calendar years in the US, whilst Scholars/Researchers on J visas are automatically considered non-residents for two out of the last six calendar years in the US. If you've been in the US for longer than the five or two year periods, the [Substantial Presence Test](#) will determine your tax residency.

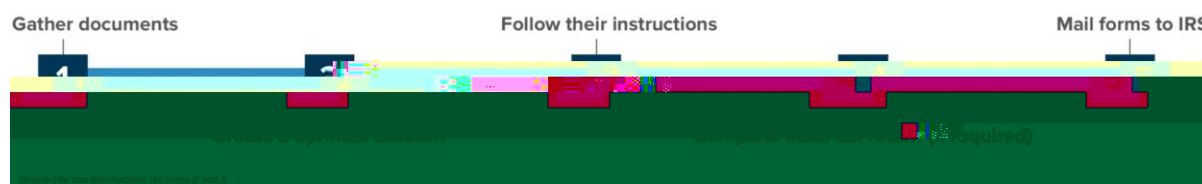
How to File:

We have teamed up with [Sprintax](#) to provide you with an easy-to-use tax preparation software designed for non-resident students and scholars in the US. We (and all other university staff) are not qualified or allowed to provide individual tax advice.

After you login to [Sprintax](#), you will be asked a series of questions about the time you have spent in the US over recent years. [Sprintax](#) will then determine your tax status. If it determines that you are a "non-resident alien" (NRA) for federal tax purposes, you can continue to use the software to respond to a series of guided questions. [Sprintax](#) will then complete and generate the tax forms you need to send to the tax authorities.

However, if [Sprintax](#) determines that you are a resident alien for federal tax purposes, you won't be able to continue using the software.

Step by Step guide on How to File Your Non-resident Tax Forms (F and J)



- 1) Gather the documents you may need for [Sprintax](#)



Document	Description
Passport	
Visa/Immigration information, including form I-20 (F status) or form DS-2019 (J status)	
Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (if you have one)	This is not needed if you had no income and the 8843 is the only form you have to file.
* W-2	This form reports your wage earnings if you worked. If you had more than one employer you should get a W-2 from each employer. It is issued by the end of January for the previous year. Make sure all employers from last year have an up-to-date address for you.
* 1042-S	<p>This form is used to report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="703 1144 1350 1211">1. stipend, scholarship, fellowship income and travel grants (not tuition reduction or exemption)<li data-bbox="703 1240 1118 1270">2. income covered by a tax treaty<li data-bbox="703 1299 1302 1366">3. payment for other types of services (eg by the semester as a note-taker) <p>If you received this type of income, the 1042-S will be mailed to you by 15 March by the payer.</p> <p>Note: Only Non-resident Aliens receive this form. If your tax status</p>



Document	Description
* 1099	This form reports miscellaneous income. Can be interest on bank accounts, stocks, bonds, dividends, earning through freelance employment
1098-T	This form is NOT needed and can NOT be used for a non-resident tax return because NRAs are not eligible to claim education expense tax credits.

2) Create a Sprintax Account:

You will receive an email from the international student office providing you with a link to [Sprintax](#) to set up your account as well as your unique code to use on [Sprintax](#). This unique code will cover the costs of the federal tax return and 8843 at no cost to you. Open your new [Sprintax](#) account by creating a UserID and password or if you have an existing account on [Sprintax](#) you can login using your existing credentials.

3) Follow the [Sprintax](#)



[Sprintax](#) Educational Tax Videos and Blog:

You also have access to the [Sprintax YouTube account](#) where there are a number of educational videos on non-resident taxes. Th1.04t