



# International Student Services Office

## F-1 Student Visa

Now that you have been accepted and issued your Form I-20, the next step is to apply for your F-1 Student visa in your home country! You will not be allowed to enter the United States without your F-1 Student visa and I-20. Below has information regarding the rules and process, but for complete information visit U.S. Homeland Security's website: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/getting-a-visa/> .

If you are exempt from the visa requirement (for example, a Canadian citizen), please read these rules and procedures over as you may be asked questions by the Customs Officer at the U.S. Port of Entry.

### FIRST STEPS

1. **Pay the U.S. SEVIS I-901 Fee of \$200** and have the printed receipt that proves payment before your visa interview. You will not be able to do your visa interview unless you do this. You can pay the fee here: [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
2. **Apply for your visa as soon as possible!** There may be considerable wait time for both the visa interview and visa processing. Wait time information for specific embassies and consulates is available at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/>
3. **Gather all your documentation required by the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country.** U.S. Government officials require evidence to prove that you qualify for the F-1 visa. The full list of documents required is here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html> or on your local embassy/consulate's website here: [www.usembassy.gov/](http://www.usembassy.gov/)

### IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

- The embassy/consulate will not issue your visa more than 4 months before your Form I-20's program start date.
- You must have a good educational objective for coming to the United States to study.
- By law, you are seen as someone who plans to remain in the U.S. permanently. You need to prove to the Consular Officers that you will come back to your home country after your studies are over. Be prepared to explain your ties to your home country and keep a positive attitude.
- Check over your visa before you leave the embassy/consulate to make sure everything is correct and your name matches your name on your passport.
- Your passport must be valid for at least six months before you board the plane, so plan accordingly! Airport customs will not allow you to board the plane if it is valid for less than six months.

### Visa Denial?

Contact us immediately with **complete** details of what was said and what documents you presented with your application. It will be hard for us to give you advice or provide additional documents if we do not have the full details of what occurred. We will work together to see if we can provide anything further to change the embassy/consulate's mind about your visa.