

These fees are due at the time of application:

Application fee: \$200

Application fee: \$200
 DHL Mailing fee: \$100

• F-1 Visa SEVIS I-901 Fee (incl. processing fee): \$380 • B-1/B-2 Visa SEVIS I-901 Fee (incl. processing fee): \$220

First Name (Given Name):	
Family Name (Surname):	
Date of Birth:/	Gender: □ Male □ Female Passport Number:
Email Address:	Telephone Number:
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Home Address:	
City:	State (or Province):
Postal Code:	Country:
City of Birth:	
Country of Birth:	
Country of Citizenship:	
Program of Study:	
□ ESL	☐ English Conversation
☐ TOEFL	☐ Professional (Business) English
☐ IELTS	☐ English Plus Fun
☐ Cambridge FCE	□ 50+ English
☐ Cambridge CAE	☐ Private Lessons
Program Start Date:	Program End Date:

Housing Information: Where will you stay?
☐ Boarding House/ Dormitory
□ Hotel
☐ Shared Apartment
☐ Own Accommodation
□ Other
Visa Information: What kind of Visa will you have?
□ Tourist Visa (B-1/B-2)
□ Visa Waiver
☐ Student Visa (F-1)
☐ Dependent Visa (F-2)
□ Other
If bringing a dependent to the U.S., please complete the following:
Dependent Family Name (Surname):
Dependent First Name:
<b>DOB:</b> /
Your Relationship to Dependent:
Dependent Country of Birth:
Dependent Country of Citizenship:
Are you transferring from another language school or college in the USA?   Yes  No
<b>Financial Information:</b> □ I will pay for my own expenses □ I have a sponsor
If funding is provided by a sponsor, please complete the following:
Name of Sponsor:
Relationship of Sponsor to You:
Sources of Funding:

**SEVIS I-901 Payment:** The SEVIS I-901 fee is mandated by Congress to support the program office and the

Submit this application together with the Financial Certification form and fees to:

AFI College 3807 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 600 Los Angeles, CA 90010 (213)381-6707

#### Student Visa - Overview

Generally, a citizen of a foreign country who wishes to enter the United States must first obtain a visa, either a nonimmigrant visa for temporary stay, or an immigrant visa for permanent residence. You must have a student visa to study in the United States. Your course of study and the type of school you plan to attend determine whether you need an F visa or an M visa.

# Students cannot travel on the Visa Waiver Program or with Visitor Visas

A student visa (F or M) is required to study in the United States. Foreign nationals may not study after entering on a visitor (B) visa or through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), except to undertake recreational study (non-credit) as part of a tourist visit.

#### For short periods of recreational study, a Visitor (B) visa may be appropriate

A visitor (B) visa permits enrollment in a short recreational course of study, which is not for credit toward a degree or academic certificate. Study leading to a U.S. conferred degree or certificate is never permitted on a visitor (B) visa, even if it is for a short duration. For example, a student in a distance learning program that requires a period of time on the institution's U.S. campus must obtain a student (F or M) visa prior to entering the United States.

# Student Acceptance at a SEVP Approved School

The first step is to apply to a SEVP-approved school in the United States. After the SEVP-approved school accepts your enrollment, you will be registered for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. The SEVP-approved school will issue you a Form I-20. After you receive the Form I-20 and register in SEVIS, you may apply at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate for a student (F or M) visa. You must present the Form I-20 to the consular officer when you attend your visa interview.

If your spouse and/or children intend to live with you in the United States while you study, they must also enroll in SEVIS, obtain individual Form I-20s from the SEVP-approved school, and apply for a visa (but they do not pay the SEVIS fee).

Visit the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) website to learn more about SEVIS and the SEVIS I-901 Fee.

### **How To Apply**

There are several steps to apply for a visa. The order of these steps and how you complete them may vary by U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Please consult the instructions on the embassy or consulate website.

- 1) Complete the Online Visa Application
- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160 Learn more about completing the DS-160. You must: 1) complete the online visa application, and 2) print the application form confirmation page to bring to your interview. (<a href="https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/">https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/</a>)
- **Photo** –You will upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the Photograph Requirements.
- 2) Schedule an Interview: Interviews are generally required for visa applicants with certain limited exceptions below. Consular officers may require an interview of any visa applicant. You should schedule an appointment for your visa interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country where you live. You may schedule your interview at another U.S. Embassy or Consulate, but be aware that it may be more difficult to qualify for a visa outside of the country where you live. Wait times for interview appointments vary by location, season, and visa category, so you should apply for your visa early. Review the interview wait time for the location where you will apply:
  - Appointment Wait Time: Information is available at <a href="https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html">https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html</a>

**New Students** – Student (F and M) visas for new students can be issued up to 120 days in advance of the start date for a course of study. However, you will not be allowed to enter the United States on your student visa more than 30 days before the start date.

### Prepare for Your Interview

• Fees - Pay the non-refundable visa application fee, if you are required to pay it before your interview. If your visa is approved, you may also pay a visa issuance fee, if applicable to your nationality. Application Fee: \$160

#### **Gather Required Documentation**

Gather and prepare the following required documents before your visa interview:

- **Passport** valid for travel to the United States Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your period of stay in the United States (unless exempt by country-specific agreements). Each individual who needs a visa must submit a separate application, including any family members listed in your passport.
- Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160 confirmation page.
- Application fee payment receipt, if you are required to pay before your interview.
- **Photo** You will upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. If the photo upload fails, you must bring one printed photo in the format explained in the Photograph Requirements.
- Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status-For Academic and Language Students, Form I-20 or Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (M-1) Student Status for Vocational Students, Form I-20 Your school will send you a Form I-20 once they have entered your information in the SEVIS database. You and your school official must sign the Form I-20. All students must be registered in the Student and Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS). Your spouse and/or minor children, if they intend live in the United States with you, will each receive an individual Form I-20.
- Carefully consider how to proof to the Consular officer that you have **strong social ties to your home country** and that you have no intentions of staying in the US after your student visa will be expired.

## **Additional Documentation May Be Required**

A consular officer will interview you to determine your qualifications for a student visa, and may request additional documents, such as evidence of:

- Your academic preparation, such as:
  - o Transcripts, diplomas, degrees, or certificates from schools you attended; and
  - Standardized test scores required by your U.S. school;
- Your intent to depart the United States upon completion of the course of study (proof of strong social ties to the home country); and
- How you will pay all educational, living and travel costs.

Review the instructions for how to apply for a visa on the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you will apply.

#### Attend Your Visa Interview

A consular officer will interview you to determine whether you are qualified to receive a student visa, or if another category is more appropriate for your purpose of travel. You must establish that you meet the requirements under U.S. law to receive a visa.

Ink-free, digital fingerprint scans are taken as part of the application process. They are usually taken during your interview, but this varies based on location.

After your visa interview, the consular officer may determine that your application requires further administrative processing. The consular officer will inform you if this is required.

After the visa is approved, you may need to pay a visa issuance fee (if applicable to your nationality), and make arrangements for the return of the passport and visa to you. Review the visa processing times to learn more.

#### Entering the United States

A visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. A visa only allows a foreign citizen to travel to a U.S. port-of-entry (generally an airport) and request permission to enter the United States. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port-of-entry have authority to permit or deny admission to the United States.

After you present your passport, visa, and Form I-20 at the port-of-entry, a CBP official will make this decision. Once you are allowed to enter the United States, the CBP official will provide an admission stamp or paper Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record.

## Additional Information

- There is no guarantee you will be issued a visa. Do not make final travel plans or buy tickets until you have a visa.
- For information about working in the United States during your study, review Students and Employment and Form I-765 Work Authorization Instructions on the USCIS website.
- If you have a temporary break in your study, view the information on the SEVP website under Do Students Returning from Temporary Absences Need New Visas? If your student visa is still valid, but you are outside the United States, you should consult with your Designated School Officials.
- Spouse and children
  - Your spouse and unmarried, minor children who intend to reside with you during your study may apply for F-2 or M-2 visas. Although SEVIS fee payment is not required, your school must issue them an individual Form I-20, which is required to apply for their visas. You must provide a copy of your F-1 or M-1 visa and provide proof of relationship.
  - o Your minor children are permitted to attend school in the United States while accompanying you.
  - U.S. Embassies and Consulates will adjudicate visa applications that are based on a same-sex marriage in the same way that we adjudicate applications for opposite gender spouses.
- A valid U.S. visa in an expired passport is still valid. Unless canceled or revoked, a visa is valid until its expiration date. If you have a valid visa in your expired passport, do not remove it from your expired passport. You may use your valid visa in your expired passport along with a new valid passport for travel and admission to the United States.