



Student Visa

Student Visa

You must obtain a visa that is appropriate for your intended purpose for entering the U.S. For most students, this will generally be an F-1 visa. You must not enter the U.S. with a tourist visa (B-1/B-2) or under any visa waiver program that your country may have with the U.S. if you intend to be a student.

**** Student visa applicants are encouraged to apply early for their visa.**

Qualifying for a Student Visa

The Immigration and National Act is very specific with regard to the requirements which must be met by applicants to qualify for the student visa. The consular officer will determine whether you qualify for the visa. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate that they properly meet student visa requirements including:

- Have a residence abroad, with no immediate intention of abandoning that residence;
- Intend to depart from the United States upon completion of the course of study; and
- Possess sufficient funds to pursue the proposed course of study.

Required Documentation

Each applicant for a student visa **must** submit these forms and documentation as explained below:

- **Form I-20A-B, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status-For Academic and Language Students.** You will need to submit a SEVIS generated Form, I-20, which was provided to you by your school. You and your school official must sign the I-20 form. See the previous section for SEVIS information.
- **A completed application, Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant, Form DS-156,** together with a [Form DS-158](#). Both forms must be completed and signed. Some applicants will also be required to complete and sign [Form DS-157](#). **Important Notice:** At certain U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad, nonimmigrant visa applicants are now required to apply for their visa using the new DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, instead of the nonimmigrant application forms DS-156, 157, 158, and other related forms.
- **A passport** valid for travel to the United States and with validity date at least six months beyond the applicant's intended period of stay in the United States (unless [country-specific agreements](#) provide exemptions)..
- **One (1) 2x2 photograph**
- A MRV fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee.
- The SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.



Student Visas

All applicants **should be prepared** to provide:

- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended;
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution such as the TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT, etc.;
- Financial evidence that shows you or your parents who are sponsoring you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study. For example, if you or your sponsor is a salaried employee, please bring income tax documents and original bank books and/or statements. If you or your sponsor own a business, please bring business registration, licenses, etc., and tax documents, as well as original bank books and/or statements.

Additional Information

- No assurances regarding the issuance of visas can be given in advance. Therefore final travel plans or the purchase of non refundable tickets should not be made until a visa has been issued.
- Unless previously canceled, a visa is valid until its expiration date. Therefore, if the traveler has a valid U.S. visa in an expired passport, do not remove the visa page from the expired passport. You may use it along with a new valid passport for travel and admission to the United States.

Further Visa Inquiries

- Questions on visa application procedures and visa ineligibilities should be made to the American consular office abroad by the applicant. Before submitting your inquiry, we request that you carefully review this web site and also the Embassy Consular web site abroad. Very often you will find the information you need.
- If your inquiry concerns a visa case in progress overseas, you should first contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate handling your case for status information. Select [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) and you can choose the Embassy or Consulate Internet site you need to contact.
- If you have additional inquiries about F or M student visas/J-1 exchange visitor visas, please email our Student/Exchange Visitor Visa Center at: fmjvisas@state.gov.

Modified from http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html