



INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

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F-1 STUDENT VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. I-20 Form

When you receive the I-20 form from our school, please sign your name and date item 11 on page 1.

2. Visa Application Form

For information on the new DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/forms/ds-160--online-nonimmigrant-visa-application.html>

To complete the new DS-160 online, go to <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

PLEASE NOTE: The new online DS-160 replaces all of the following forms: DS-156, DS-157, DS-158, and DS-3032.

3. Visa Application Fee

Follow the instructions on your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate's website to pay the \$160 visa application fee.

4. Scheduling the Visa Interview

Find the U.S. Consulate or Embassy near you and contact them to schedule an interview. <http://www.usembassy.gov>
Make your appointment as far in advance as possible but usually no more than 90 days before the start date of your class. Start date = #5 on your I-20 form (1st date)

5. SEVIS* Fee

- If you selected with your application for ILI to pay the SEVIS fee for you, you will find the form **SEVIS I-901 Payment Confirmation** in the packet with your I-20 form. You will need to bring this form with you to your interview.
- If you did not select for ILI to pay the SEVIS fee, you will need to pay yourself at least 3 business days before your visa interview:

Go to: <http://fmjfee.com>

- Copy your name exactly from the I-20 form.
- Enter the SEVIS Identification number listed on the top right of your Form I-20 (above the bar code) beginning with the number after the letter "N".
- Enter your date of birth in MM/DD/YYYY format as listed in Section 1 of your Form I-20.
- Print a copy of the online receipt and bring it with you to your interview.

6. Visa Interview

During your visa interview, a consular officer will determine whether you are qualified to receive a visa, and if so, which visa category is appropriate based on your purpose of travel. You will need to establish that you meet the requirements under U.S. law to receive the category of visa for which you are applying. Bring the following items to your visa interview:

- Your passport (the expiration date must be at least 6 months later than your arrival date in the United States)
- I-20 form and acceptance letter from the International Language Institute
- SEVIS I-901 Payment Confirmation, see **5. SEVIS Fee**
- Confirmation page of online DS-160 application
- 1 passport photo if not uploaded with your online DS-160 application. Go to this site for the format: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html>
- Receipt for the visa application fee
- Financial evidence – bank statement/ other documents
 - You must show how you will pay for your school and living expenses during your stay in the United States.
- Proof you will return to your country
 - U.S. immigration law requires that all applicants for nonimmigrant visas demonstrate that they have social, familial, work, or other compelling circumstances that will obligate them to return to their home countries after a temporary visit in the United States.
 - Examples of compelling ties could be employment, home or business ownership, continued university enrollment, and spouse or children. Commonly submitted documentation includes salary statement, job letter from employer, insurance papers showing when work at the company was started, property deeds, and personal and company tax returns showing earned income and tax paid.

7. Travel to the United States

You may enter the United States 30 days before the start date written on your I-20 form. You may **not** enter the United States after the start date on your I-20. Please contact us if we need to defer your start date.

Please always check with your U.S. Embassy or Consulate (list at <http://usembassy.state.gov>) for the most up-to-date visa application process, forms and fees.

Good luck! Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this information. We would be happy to help you.