

# HOW TO GET YOUR STUDENT (F1) VISA

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You are encouraged to apply for your visa as soon as you know when you plan to travel.

Don't wait until the last minute! Allow several weeks for planning and getting an appointment for the visa. You can call the embassy or go to the embassy website for information and instructions.

Applicants for a student visa must provide the following items when they go to the embassy for the interview:

- Form I-20
- The SEVIS I-901 fee receipt
- Letter from the school confirming your acceptance and enrollment
- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, Form DS-160
- A passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your expected stay in the U.S.
- 1 (2x2) photograph
- A MRV fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee
- Financial documents that show you have sufficient funds (money) to cover tuition and living expenses during your time in the U.S.

**Consuls (embassy officials) also want to see evidence that you have strong economic, social, family, or career ties to your home country.**

**Applicants for an F-1 or any non-immigrant visa should provide evidence that:**

- a. you have a residence in your home country
- b. you intend to return to that residence
- c. you intend to leave the U.S. when your course of study is completed.

**The F-1 visa is only for people who intend to return to their home country.**

It is also only for people planning to pursue a full course of study. Therefore, you should be prepared to explain why it is necessary for you to study in the USA.