



F-1 Visa Application Procedures

Step-by-Step Instructions for the Visa Application

Following is a step-by-step description of the **F-1 Student Visa** application procedures. Please follow the instructions very carefully, click on the links below or visit the websites for more information. Let us know if you need any assistance.

1) Sign the Form I-20

You must sign and date item 11 on page 1 of the Form I-20.

2) Pay the SEVIS Fee

SEVIS is a web-based Immigration system for maintaining information on international students. Your Form I-20 was issued in the SEVIS system and has a unique SEVIS ID number in the upper right corner of page 1.

To pay the SEVIS fee online:

- go to <http://fmjfee.com>
- complete the Form I-901 online and provide the necessary credit card information to pay the SEVIS fee.
Important: write your name exactly as it appears on your Form I-20!
- print a copy of the online receipt Form I-797

Make copies of your receipt and keep it with your other important immigration documents. The fee must be paid online at least three business days prior to the interview date to ensure that the payment can be deposited and recorded in SEVIS. The interviewing officer at the Consulate or Embassy will confirm that the fee has been paid by accessing the SEVIS system.

3) Complete the Visa Application Form DS-160

The electronic visa application form can be found online at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
It is important to follow the instructions very carefully and make sure to save your data regularly.

4) Pay the Visa Application Fee

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

5) Schedule the Visa Interview

Contact the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your area and follow their instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 visa interview. A list of U.S. Consulates and Embassies can be found at <http://usembassy.state.gov>

6) Visa Interview

Here is a checklist of all documents you need to prepare and bring to your visa interview:

- ✓ your **passport** (must be valid for at least six months from your **arrival date** in the U.S.)
- ✓ **Form I-20**
- ✓ Letter of Acceptance from Brandon College
- ✓ **Form DS-160** (confirmation page)
- ✓ one 2x2-inch **passport photograph** in the correct format:
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html>
- ✓ a **receipt for the visa application fee**
- ✓ a **receipt for the SEVIS fee** (Form I-797)
- ✓ **financial evidence** (bank statement, etc.) that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.
- ✓ **any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the U.S.** This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community, letter from your employer or school, etc.



During the interview, remain calm and answer all the visa officer's questions openly and honestly.

When can you enter the United States?

After you receive the F-1 visa, you can enter the U.S. up to **30 days** before the starting date on your I-20, but no later than that date. Contact us immediately if you need to change the starting date.

Contact us if you have any questions!

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you need help during the visa application process. Our experienced admissions team is always available and happy to help!