



Educational Consortium Institute

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HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR VISA

1. Pay your SEVIS I-901 fee at www.FMJfee.com. You must pay this fee at least 2 business days before your visa appointment. If you have questions you can contact the SEVIS I-901 Help Desk at (785) 330-1048.
2. Make an appointment online to meet with immigration official at your local US Embassy or Consulate at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.
You will have to fill out an application and pay a fee. Specific instructions will be posted on your embassy website.
3. Bring the following to your visa appointment:
 - a. **Form DS-156 and Form DS-157 (if you are male and between the age of 16 and 45).** Both forms must be completed and signed.
 - b. **Your SEVIS I-20 or DS2019 sent in your application packet.** Take the complete application packet that we sent you to your visa appointment. The form must also be signed by you and by a school official. **A passport valid for at least 6 months after your proposed entry date into the United States**
 - c. **Two 2x2 photographs.** For examples, see the photo format explained in nonimmigrant photograph requirements at <http://www.travel.state.gov/photorequirements.html> .
4. During your **F-1 visa interview**, do the following to increase your chances of obtaining a student visa:
 - a. **Be specific and definite about your plans.** Be prepared to state what you intend to study and what kind of career it will prepare you for in your country. Be ready to explain why it is better for you to study in the United States than in your country.
 - b. **Show ties to your home country with documents.** If your family owns a business, take with you letters from the bank describing the business. If you have a brother or sister who studied in the U.S. and then returned home, take a copy of your brother's or sister's diploma and a statement from an employer showing that they have returned home.
5. During your **J-1 visa interview**, do the following to increase your chances of obtaining a student visa:
 - a. **Demonstrate your English proficiency.** You need to show the Embassy Officer that your English ability will allow you to successfully participate in academic classes without the need of ESL support.
 - b. **Explain your purpose for joining the program.** Your purpose must be learning about American culture and the American way of life. This is a one-year program. You cannot discuss continuing studies beyond one year.

If you application for a visa is denied, you may apply again.

For more information about student visas please visit the following websites:

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_types_students2.html