



# USA Student Visa Procedure & Document Checklist

You must have a student visa to study in USA. There are 3 types of visas:

## 1. F1 Student Visa

The F-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa for all those wishing to study in the United States. You must file an F-1 visa application if you plan on entering the US. to attend a university or college or any academic institute. F-1 students must maintain a full course of study. F-1 students must show that they are able to support themselves during their stay in the US

The spouses and minor children of a student on F-1 status are typically eligible to enter U.S. on F-2 status. F-2 visa-holders are prohibited from any form of paid employment.

## 2. J1 Exchange Visitor Visa

The J-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa issued by the United States to research scholars, professors and exchange visitors participating in programs that promote cultural exchange, especially to obtain medical or business training within the U.S. All applicants must meet eligibility criteria, English language requirements, and be sponsored either by a university, private sector or government program.

## 3. M-1 Vocational/ Non-Academic

The M-1 visa is a type of student visa in the U.S. reserved for international students attending vocational schools and technical schools. The spouse and minor children of a student in M-1 status are typically eligible to enter the U.S. in M-2 status

Your course of study and the type of school/university you plan to attend determine whether you need an F1 visa or M1 visa

### Visa Procedures, Document Checklist for U.S. Student Visa

You may only apply for a student visa after you've applied for and have been accepted to an SEVP approved school. (SEVP stands for the Student Exchange and Visitor Program. All US schools that enroll F-1 and/or M-1 students must be certified by this program.) and received the Form I-20. The wait time for the appointment and interview can vary by the location, visa category or season, so we suggest you apply for the visa as early as possible. The student visa for the USA can be issued up to 120 days in advance of your course start date.

**SEVIS Fee:** All students must pay this fee. SEVIS stands for **Student Exchange Visitors Information Systems (SEVIS)** program and it requires schools and exchange programs to verify the enrollment status of all continuing and new foreign students or exchange visitors. The student visa cannot be issued until the student SEVIS fee has been paid. All applications applying with I-20 forms are required to provide the SEVIS I-901 fee receipt as proof of payment.

Please visit [www.ice.gov/sevis](http://www.ice.gov/sevis)



### Visa Type SEVIS FEE

- F1 US\$ 350.00
- J1 US\$ 220.00
- M1 US\$ 350.00

The fee can be paid by international credit card or online NEFT / IMPS or by cash at designated



## Visa Appointment and Payment of Visa Fee

### Step 1 – Filling the online DS-160 form

The Form DS-160 is the electronic application form for the US non-immigrant visa. It is a fully online form, which must be completed by every applicant who is applying for a student visa. The form contains questions on your personal information, contact details, passport and travel information, previous trips to the United States (if any), family information as well as questions about your education and work experience. All students will need to fill the online application DS-160 and print the copy of it with the barcode.

### Step 2- DS-160 Visa Application Fee

The visa application fee is currently US\$ 160 must be paid. You can pay your non-immigrant visa application fee in cash at any of the designated AXIS or Citibank branches or online using NEFT. Before going to the bank, you must print and carry the applicable U.S. visa fee collection slip available after logging into your profile. Take the completed fee collection slip to the bank when you pay your fee. After receiving your payment, the bank will give you a receipt. Values are shown in (USD); however the Fee payable is in Indian Rupees (INR) at the current Consular Exchange rate.

### Step 3 – Schedule Your visa interview

After you've submitted Form DS-160online you can schedule your visa interview. Wait times for interviews vary from consulate to consulate or city by city.

All applicants will be required to get a digital fingerprint (Biometric) scan completed prior to the F1 interview day. In many cases it can be completed on a separate day prior to the interview day or some times on the same day just before the interview

### Step 4 –Attend the Visa Interview

The most important step in the visa process is this interview. And this will be the deciding factor as to whether you will receive a US student visa or not.



## **Before attending your interview, gather the following items and information:**

- Your passport
- One copy of your visa photograph
- Your printed DS-160 confirmation page
- Your printed I-901 SEVIS fee confirmation page
- Your visa application fee payment receipt
- Form I-20 for F-1/M-1 students, or Form DS-2019 for J-1 students (make sure to bring the original form – not a copy!) You will also require other documentation, such as:
- Official transcripts from colleges/universities you've attended
- Diplomas/degrees from high schools/colleges/universities you've attended
- Standardized test scores (TOEFL / IELTS or GRE / SAT whichever is applicable)
- Proof of sufficient funds
- Bank statements or any other documents you believe will support your application and which give credible evidence that you have enough readily-available funds to meet all expenses for the first year of study and that you have access to funds sufficient to cover all expenses while you remain in the United States. M-1 applicants must demonstrate the ability to pay all tuition and living costs for the entire period of their intended stay.

*Photocopies of bank statements will not be accepted unless you can also show original copies of bank statements*

*or original bank books.*

If you are financially sponsored by another person, bring proof of your relationship with the sponsor ( such as your

birth certificate), the sponsor's most recent original tax forms / payslips and sponsor's bankbooks and/or fixed

deposit certificates.

- Evidence of any work experience (Appointment letter, payslips and salary statement)
- Proof of your intent to depart the US at the end of your program

## **The Interview:**

All students will undergo personal interview with the visa officer at the US Consulate, the visa officer may ask the students various questions related to their past qualification, why they want to study in the USA, their future plans and goals, family background etc. to determine the students genuine intentions.

Hints for the interview:

- Be well-prepared and well-informed about the university, program of study, costs and sum up your educational objectives (CLICK HERE for sample questions)
- Be able to justify his/her choice of studying in the United States and how it will benefit in career prospectus back home in India
- Demonstrate strong economic, social and cultural ties in India
- Be aware of sponsor's (preferably parents) income and nature of work
- Be well acquainted with own education qualification including university / college credentials in India



- Finally, be able to demonstrate that you have sufficient funds currently available to pay first year tuition fee and living expenses and that funds will be available for additional years until the course of study is completed

*Note: The visa officers are looking for students who are honest, well-prepared (no parroting), motivating, confident (not over confident), spontaneous (no parroting), clarity in communication and projecting positive body language. You must be able to justify as to "why you deserve to secure the student visa".*

## Best of Luck

### How can Uni2Go help with United States student visa applications?

Our team of experienced counsellors guide you with the correct visa procedures and protocols for all F1 and M1 category student visa. We'll make sure you are fully informed on the latest visa requirements and conditions; also help you prepare the right documents and interview process



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