Obtaining your F-1 Visa

The process of obtaining an F-1 visa can be lengthy, which means it is important to know the steps involved. If you are already in the United States on a valid visa, please contact International Student Services to determine if that visa type allows for enrollment, or if you will be required to file a Change of Status Form to obtain an F-1 visa before beginning an educational program.

Below is the step by step process for obtaining your F-1 visa:

1. Once you have been admitted to the program, you will need to complete the I-20 request form online at https://orgsync.com/41248/forms/47028 . It takes about 2 business days for the I-20 to be created once all required materials have been submitted. You will be emailed with important information after the issuance of your I-20. Please review the e-mail carefully and report any errors immediately for correction.

2. Once you receive the e-mail with your SEVIS number, you can pay your SEVIS fee at https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp. People residing in certain countries, will not be able to pay the SEVIS fee online, so they must make arrangements to mail in a money order or cashier's check. For that reason, we recommend you pay the SEVIS fee promptly.

3. Once you've paid the SEVIS fee, you can go to the embassy website and complete the visa request form, or DS-160 at http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/forms/ds-160--online-nonimmigrant-visa-application.html.

4. After paying the SEVIS fee, can schedule your visa interview appointment and pay your visa application processing fee. Each consulate may have country-specific instructions. To find the nearest to you, check at http://www.usembassy.gov/.

Visa processing times vary by embassy, and some attendees may be selected to undergo a background check by the consular official, so applying early is essential! To check on the Visa wait times in your area, go to http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html. If you have any questions about the process or are having any trouble navigating a specific embassy's website, please feel free to contact International Student Services.