

## How to get your student (F) visa

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

**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 US when your course of study is completed

## How to prepare for your visa interview

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 English in the USA.

- Talk about your academic/professional development - how will you use English when you get back to your country? Why is it important for you to know English?
- Do you intend to study another subject once you have finished your English program? Which subject? Why do you need English?
- Do you think that learning English more quickly and efficiently is helped by first-hand knowledge of the American culture and interaction with many native speakers? Do you have this opportunity in your home country?
- When does the program end? When will you be returning to your home country?
- Explain why you have chosen this specific school. Why do you want to go there? What attracts you about their English program?