

Applying for an F-1/J-1 Visa in your Home Country

Visa Information: International students in the U.S. are generally admitted under the F-1 student visa classification. Under special circumstances, international students may also be admitted on J-1 sponsored student visa. Those who petition for F-1 or J-1 visas are admitted as nonimmigrants, and are granted temporary stays in the US. In order to apply for the F-1 visa, the prospective student must receive a SEVIS ID. Those applying for J-1 visas receive the form DS-2019. All nonimmigrant visas should not be expired at the time of entry/re-entry to U.S. The guideline information on visa application is available at the U.S. State Department services website.

An F-1 visa is issued to international students who are attending an academic program or English Language Program at a US college or university. F-1 students must maintain the minimum course load for full-time student status. They can remain in the US up to 60 days beyond the length of time it takes to complete their academic program, unless they have applied and been approved to stay and work for a period of time under the OPT Program.

Process to apply for an F-1/J-1 Visa:

STEP 1: Obtain Admission and Immigration Documents

Receive an admission and letter of intent I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students & scholars) from the University (the Graduate School, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or the Intensive English Program).

Make sure that all of the information listed on your I-20 or DS-2019 (including major and funding) is accurate before you proceed to Step 2. If any information is incorrect, please email the person who issued your I-20 so that they can reissue it if necessary.

STEP 2: Pay your I-901 fee (if applicable) and pay for DS-160. Complete the online visa application (FCID)

to ensure that you have enough time to obtain your visa and enroll for your semester of admission. Visa applications can take up to 3 months. You can search for visa wait times at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>.

