

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Getting F-1 Visa



STAND
OUT



Topics

- Overview of Visa Application Process
 - What is Visa?
 - Student visa classifications
 - Getting ready for an interview
 - Required documents
 - Approved or Denied?
- Common Questions and Answers
- Resources
- Your questions



Student Visa Classifications



F Student in an Academic or Language Program



J Exchange Visitor - Secondary School Student, College/University Student, Degree Student, or Non-degree Student



Visa Process

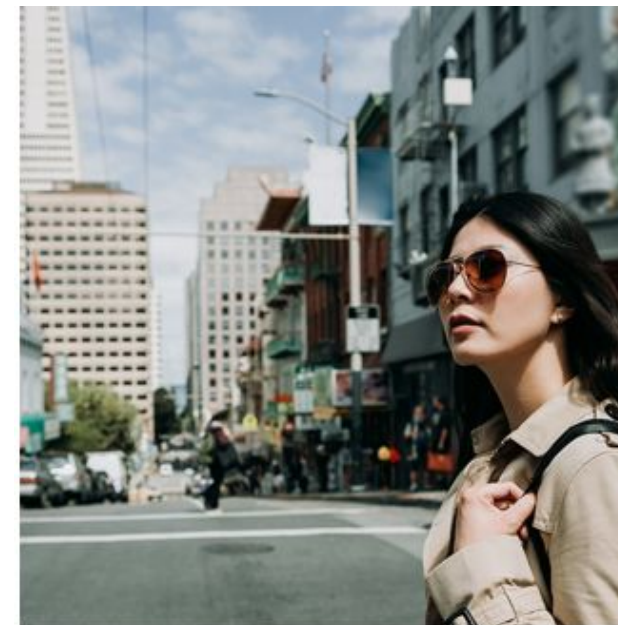
- Visa adjudications are consistent world-wide, but processes, like appointment systems, can differ
- Student Visas can be issued up to 120 days before the “Program Start Date” listed on Form I-20
- J-1 Exchange Visitor visas can be issued as soon as the applicant obtains Form DS-2019



I-20 – Certificate of Eligibility



- Why do we need I-20?
- How to get it and who issues the I-20?
 - Get admitted to FAU
 - Request I-20
- Role of I-20 in traveling?



Before the Interview...

- When your I-20 (or DS-2019) is issued Complete the DS-160 visa application, pay the application fee, and schedule your interview appointment
- Ensure your passport will be valid for at least 6 months after your planned arrival in the United States. If it is not, you'll need to apply for a new one

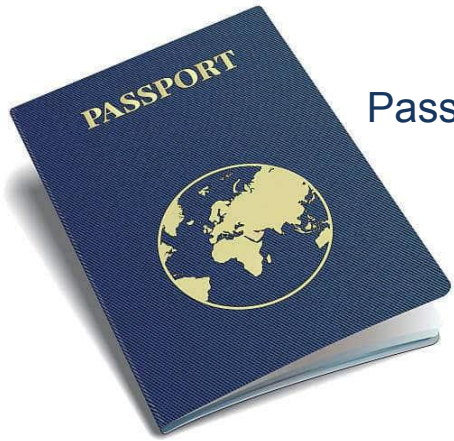


Getting Ready for your Visa Interview



1. Schedule visa interview appointment (only *after* you have been issued your SEVIS ID on I-20/DS-2019)
Visa Interview Wait Times
2. Complete DS-160 application and print confirmation page/bar code – standard for majority of non-immigrant visa applicants worldwide (DS-160 Frequently Asked Questions)
3. Collect documents:
 - Passport, Confirmation Page for DS-160, Photograph, I-901 SEVIS Fee, DS-160 Fee, I-20/DS-2019 Certificates of eligibility
 - Additional Documentation - refer to embassy/consulate website for suggested additional documents

Required Documents



Passport

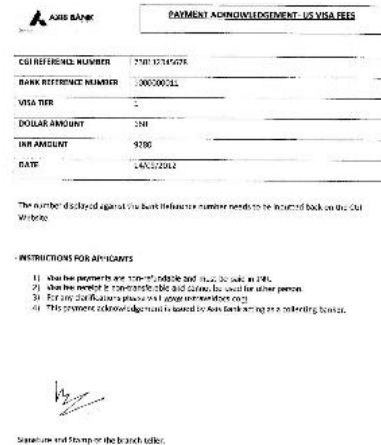
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DS-160 Confirmation Page



I-20 (F/M visas) or DS-2019 (J visas)



Receipts for the visa application and SEVIS fee



Visa Appointment Wait Time

- See [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov) for up-to-date wait times
- Apply early!

A wait time listed as "999 calendar days" indicates that the Consular Section is only providing that service to emergency cases. Please check the Embassy or Consulate website for further information.

Select a U.S. Embassy or Consulate:

London



Nonimmigrant Visa Type	Appointment Wait Time
Visitor Visa	180 Calendar Days
Student/Exchange Visitor Visas	18 Calendar Days
All Other Nonimmigrant Visas	60 Calendar Days

[See details on appointment availability and processing times](#)

The Interview



What is a consular officer looking for?



- Who you are
- What you want to do
- How are you planning to find it
- What you intend to do when you have completed your approved activity

Approved or Denied?



Visa Refused

Most Common Refusals

214(b)

221(g)

212(a)

Administrative Processing, 221(g)



221(g)

- *Your application is incomplete and/or further documentation is required*
- *Further **Administrative Processing** is required before decision can be made*

- Case requires further review or more information
- Unique to the circumstances of each application
- Applicant receives specific instructions on what to do/provide



What establishes F-1 international student status?

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SEVIS activation:

- Must check-in with ISS
- Full time enrollment

I-20

Visa

I-94





Resources

- List of Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions:

<https://www.usembassy.gov/>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/list-of-posts.html>

- 10 Points to remember when applying for Student Visa – NAFSA (National Association of International Educators)

<https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/10-points-remember-when-applying-student-visa>

- Prepare for your Visa Interview – Study in the States by Homeland Security

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2018/08/students-prepare-your-visa-interview>



After I have my visa, will I be able to enter the US?

Visa doesn't guarantee entry into the US. Visa allows a foreign citizen to travel to the US port of entry and the DHS US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) immigration inspector authorizes or denies admission to the US



My visa expired. Can I renew it if I leave the United States for a trip?

Generally, continuing students who can show they are in good standing in their academic programs should qualify for new student visas to return and resume their studies. Continuing students should provide evidence of progress in their program, along with evidence of continuing ability to cover tuition and living expenses. The consular officer will determine whether you qualify for a visa. You should schedule an appointment for your interview as early as possible, so any additional administrative processing, if required, can be completed before your next academic term begins.



My visa expired, but I am not able to travel any time soon, can I continue my study?

Yes. As long as you have a valid I-20/DS-2019, and you meet all other requirements to maintain your non-immigrant status, you can stay in the U.S. with an expired visa. When you are ready to travel, make sure you have enough time to schedule an appointment with the U.S. Embassy abroad to obtain visa extension. You will only be able to re-enter the U.S. once your visa is renewed.



Travel within six months of a visa grant – myth or truth?

The most popular myth that is spread around is that you need to travel to the USA within six months of visa grants or else your visa is invalid. This myth is untrue. You can travel at any time before the expiration date of your visa. Unless the immigration authorities revoke your visa due to some reason, you can travel to the USA whenever you want till the time your visa expires.

