

F-1 Student Visa Instructions



After reviewing your I-20 Certificate of Eligibility form, complete the following steps to obtain your visa for entry to the U.S. You will apply for an F-1 Nonimmigrant Visa, which is classified as a student visa.

STEP 1 – Sign your I-20

- See the bottom of page 1 under the “Student Attestation” section

STEP 2 – Pay the SEVIS fee (I-901 fee)

- Go to: <https://fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html>
- \$350 USD
- Print the SEVIS Fee receipt
- You will need the receipt for your visa interview and upon arrival to the U.S.
- For other methods of payment: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu-instructions>
- F-2 dependents are not required to pay the SEVIS fee

Citizens of Canada and Bermuda do NOT complete steps 3 – 6

Canadian and Bermudian citizens are not required to have an F-1 visa in their passport to enter the U.S. in F-1 status. Be sure to pack the following documents in your carry-on luggage for entry to the U.S.:

- Valid Canadian or Bermudian passport
- I-20
- SEVIS Fee receipt
- Supporting financial information
 - Bring all financial documents you submitted with your Certificate of Finances
- Saint Mary’s College acceptance letter

STEP 3 – Complete the DS-160 visa application

- Go to: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
- \$185 USD visa application fee (MRV fee)
- Print the confirmation page
- You will need the confirmation for your visa interview and upon arrival to the U.S.
- If you are bringing F-2 dependents, you can create a family application

STEP 4 – Book an interview appointment at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate

- Refer to the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you plan to interview for specific instructions on how to book the appointment and pay the application fee (MRV fee)
- Print the appointment confirmation page
- Contact the Center for International Programs for visa interview tips and sample questions

STEP 5 – Attend your visa interview

- Bring these required documents to your visa interview:
 - Valid passport
 - Valid I-20
 - SEVIS Fee receipt
 - DS-160 confirmation page
 - Supporting financial information
 - Bring all financial documents you submitted with your Certificate of Finances
 - Saint Mary's College acceptance letter
- If you are bringing dependents with you on an F-2 visa, they will also need to attend the visa interview. Each dependent who is 13 years old or older will need to be interviewed in order to receive an F-2 visa. Bring these required documents for your dependents:
 - Valid passport
 - Valid I-20
 - SEVIS Fee receipt
 - DS-160 confirmation page
 - Supporting financial information
 - Marriage certificate (if bringing a spouse)
 - Birth certificate (if bringing children)

STEP 6 – Receive your passport back with the U.S. F-1 student visa

- Go to the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you interviewed to find out how to receive your passport back

STEP 7 – Entry to the U.S.

When you arrive to the U.S., be prepared to show visa and financial documentation to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer. Be sure to pack the following documents in your carry-on luggage:

- Valid passport
- F-1 visa
- I-20
- SEVIS Fee receipt
- Financial documentation
- Saint Mary's College acceptance letter

NOTE – Reciprocity Fee

Students from certain countries may be required to pay a visa issuance fee after their F-1 visa application is approved.

- Go to: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country.html>
- Find your country of citizenship from the left menu
- Select the "F" visa classification to see if there is a reciprocity fee for your country of citizenship