



Student Visas

Fact Sheet for Indian Students Traveling to the United States

Please use the information below as a guide to help you successfully apply for your student visa. The information is provided by the Consular (Visa) Section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi but do note that policies and procedures are subject to change. For information on the U.S. Embassy and Consulates' latest operating status, please visit: <https://in.usembassy.gov/visas/>

Steps to Apply for the Student Visa

Step 1: SEVIS FEE

After you finalize your institution and receive your I-20, your first step is to pay the SEVIS Fee. Pay the SEVIS Fee online at: www.fmjfee.com

Step 2: CREATE ACCOUNT AND FILL OUT DS-160

Visit <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en>

Select the region and country and then create a user account.

Complete the DS-160 (visa application) form at: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

Find guidelines for completing the form at: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en/step-2>

Step 3: PAY VISA APPLICATION FEE

Pay the application fees - via National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) or mobile phone or in cash at DRUK (For Bhutanese Nationals), Axis, and Citibank

For instructions refer to: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en/step-3>

Step 4: SCHEDULE YOUR VISA APPOINTMENT

Schedule your first appointment for biometrics collection at the Visa Application Center (VAC) and your second appointment for the visa interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. For more information about scheduling both of these appointments click: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en/step-4>

For the latest appointment wait times see: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

Remember: You should arrive at the Embassy/Consulate or Visa Assistance Center (VAC) no earlier than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment.

** F, M, and academic J visa applicants who have previously been issued any type of U.S. visa, may now apply for the F1 using the interview waiver (or “dropbox”) process. You may book a dropbox appointment at: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en>.*

What is the interview waiver process?

It is the process of applying for a U.S. visa without a visa interview. Visa applicants who were previously issued a U.S. visa and who fulfill certain eligibility criteria, or who meet certain age requirements, may be eligible to schedule an interview waiver appointment.

You may apply for an interview waiver appointment at:

<https://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en/renew-visa>



Documents: Bring the following mandatory documents for your visa appointments:

For your VAC visit:

- A valid passport
- DS-160 confirmation page
- Appointment confirmation page

For your visa interview:

- Your passport
- A printed copy of your appointment confirmation letter
- Your DS-160 confirmation page stamped at VAC
- SEVIS fee receipt.
- The Form I-20 (for F and M applicants) or the DS-2019 (for J applicants) issued by the U.S. institution or program sponsor

Type of Student Visa:

- F1: For students in an academic or language training program. (This is the most common visa type for those who wish to pursue education in the United States.)
- J1: For Exchange Visitor Program participants
- M1: For vocational students or other non-academic students

For more information on student visa categories please visit:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html> and

<https://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/en/student-visa>

SEVIS and SEVIS Fee

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is an internet-based system that maintains data on foreign students and exchange visitors, as well as family members, before and during your stay in the US. It is a key part of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

If you apply for a student or exchange visitor visa (F-1, M-1, and J-1 visas), in most cases you must pay the SEVIS fee (SEVIS I-901 fee). Payments and inquiries are handled by the SEVP and administered by ICE. For information about the fee and the payment processes and options, visit the ICE websites

<https://www.ice.gov/sevis> and <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901>

Points to remember on SEVIS Fee Payment:

- Do not pay the SEVIS fee before you have your Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Pay the SEVIS fee before your visa interview appointment and well in advance
- Take the SEVIS fee payment receipt to your visa interview
- The SEVIS fee is non-refundable



Important

If you have a spouse or child traveling with you, they must apply for an F-2/M-2/J-2 dependent visa – either at the time of your application or after you receive your visa. They are not required to pay a separate SEVIS fee. You can apply for an F-1 visa up to 365 days or 12 months before the start of your program (as specified on your I-20), though you can travel to the U.S. no more than 30 days before the start of your program.

Vaccination Requirement

All foreign national air travelers to the United States are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and to provide proof of vaccination status prior to boarding an airplane to fly to the United States, with only limited exceptions. Accepted vaccines include those with FDA authorization or WHO. Emergency Use Listing – both COVAXIN and Covishield are accepted. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose series, or two weeks after receiving a one-dose series. Students are subject to this requirement, and you should plan in advance to receive your vaccination in time for your intended travel. For more information on the vaccination requirement see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/proof-of-vaccination.html>

Contact Us

EducationUSA at the United States-India Educational Foundation, New Delhi (USIEF)
Fulbright House, 12 Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001
Tel: +91 11 42090909/78/79/80/83/84/97 | WhatsApp: 7428932225
Email: educationusaindia@usief.org.in | Toll free: 18001031231 (M-F, 10am to 5pm)
Website: educationusa.state.gov | <http://www.usief.org.in>

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