

# Preparing for your F-1 Visa Interview



Complete these **steps** to prepare for your visa interview:

**1. Contact your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate to ask about how to get an F-1 international student visa.** For a list of Consulates and Embassies see: <http://usembassy.state.gov>



**2. Complete visa Form DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application**



Form DS-160 is submitted electronically to the Department of State website via the Internet: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv>

If you have questions on how to complete the form, see: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/forms/ds-160--online-nonimmigrant-visa-application.html>

When complete, **print and keep the DS-160 barcode page.** (You will not need to print the full application.)  
NOTE: You should decide which school you want to attend BEFORE you apply for the visa, or pay the SEVIS Fee (Step 5), because the name of the school that issued your I-20 will be written on your visa. The form will instruct you to upload your digital image as part of completing the online visa application form.

**3. Follow the U.S. Embassy/Consulate's instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa.** It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.



**4. Pay the Visa Application Fee by following the instructions provided by your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate.**

Keep the receipt as you will need it as proof of payment at your interview.

**5. Pay the \$350 SEVIS fee** by completing Form I-901 at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com) at least three (3) days before your visa interview. (NOTE- The SEVIS fee is only needed if your I-20 is marked for "initial" attendance.) When completing the form, be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your passport and I-20 form. Once payment is complete, keep a copy of the SEVIS receipt as you will need it at your visa interview. *(Make sure to keep the receipt and bring it with you to the U.S. as well.)*



**STUDENT EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**6. Prepare and bring the documents required by the U.S. Embassy/Consulate for your visa**

**interview.** *Because the requirements differ from country to country, you should contact the U.S. Embassy/Consulate to confirm what documentation you need.* These will likely include:

- A passport valid for at least six months into the future
- Form I-20 (don't forget to sign it!)
- Admission letter to CSUEB
- DS-160 barcode page
- Receipt for the visa application fee
- Receipt for the SEVIS fee, if applicable
- Documents to demonstrate financial support/sufficient funds for U.S. study (e.g. bank statement)
- Any information that shows your intention to return home after completion of your academic program, such as proof of property, family or other ties to your community
- Some embassies/consulates require visa applicants to bring a photo and/or academic credentials



**7. Remain calm and answer all the Visa Officer's questions openly and honestly.**