



Visa Application Process

1. **Student will apply for visa.**
 - a. **Student visits consulate or embassy with the following documents:**
 - (1) SEVIS I-20
 - (2) Valid passport
 - (3) Financial documents and Affidavit of Support
 - (4) Acceptance Admissions Letter
 - b. Student completes visa application.
 - c. Every American embassy/consulate works from the same set of regulations and laws but will have different procedures for its location. Some will require a person-to-person interview; some will collect the documents and give the student an appointment for sometime in the near future; some will give an appointment and ask the student to come back with all the documentation; some will even conduct all the process by mail. If the visa is approved, student will be given an F-1 visa stamp in the passport.

Note: The visa is a stamp in the passport indicating where the visa was issued, the date the visa was issued, the date the visa will expire, the number of entries, the type of visa, and the visa number. A newer type of American visa is a machine-readable paper stamp glued to a page in the passport.
 - d. When the student collects the passport with the visa, he/she will also be given a sealed envelope, which contains the SEVIS I-20.
2. **On the flight to the United States**, the student will be given an I-94 (which includes 3 sections: the instructions, the arrival record card, and the departure record card) to complete.
3. **At the port-of-entry**, student will present to the immigration officer the following:
 - a. Valid passport with valid visa
 - b. Sealed envelope with the SEVIS I-20
 - c. Completed I-94 card (all 3 sections)
 - d. Any other requested information such as financial documents and/or admission letter
4. **The immigration officer will:**
 - a. Return the valid passport with valid visa with an immigration entry stamp.
 - b. Return the departure record card (I-94) with an entry stamp to the student (usually stapled in the passport).
 - c. The inspector at a port-of-entry will take the SEVIS Form I-20 from the student. The inspector also will stamp it in the right-hand corner with immigration entry arrival date. Then, the SEVIS I-20 will be return to school. The student will receive a copy of the SEVIS I-20.
 - d. Return any other requested information.
 - e. Student must immediately contact the school to pick-up the SEVIS I-20 Form.

Special Note Regarding Canadians: Canadians do not need passports or visas to enter the U.S. but must have documentation to prove citizenship and identity. A birth certificate plus a form of photo I.D. would be acceptable in lieu of a passport. A student should take the SEVIS I-20, passport, and financial documentation to the Canadian/U.S. border. The U.S. immigration officers will take the SEVIS Form I-20 from the student. The inspector also will stamp it in the right-hand corner with immigration entry date. Then, the SEVIS I-20 will be return to school. The student will receive a copy of the SEVIS I-20, and must contact school upon arrival to pick-up the original SEVIS I-20. Must fill out an I-94 card, and will have it return as evidence of legal entry to the U.S. as an F-1 student. If the Canadian has a passport, the student can present the passport too.