



Getting Your Student Visa*

CESL will assist students to simplify the process of obtaining the F-1 U.S. student visa. Please read this information thoroughly. If you have any questions after reading this information please email us at cesl@email.arizona.edu.

1. Submit your complete CESL application. This includes all supporting documentation (financial guarantee, financial guarantee authorization and passport copy). We will review the application for admission and then send you the form I-20 that is required for your student visa application.
2. Pay the SEVIS fee and print your receipt. This can be paid at www.fmjfee.com.
3. Obtain the information and forms from the U.S. embassy or consulate nearest to your home. www.usembassy.gov, <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>
4. Make an appointment. Be sure you pay your SEVIS (I-901) fee prior to the appointment. <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/wait-times.html>
5. Prepare for your interview carefully.

Collect Information and Prepare for the Interview

Obtain the form to apply for the non-immigrant visa application from the U.S. embassy or consulate nearest your home. Be sure to check with the specific embassy or consulate for their specific procedures. You must schedule your appointment for the visa interview.

Take the following documents with you when you go to your interview.

- Form I-20
- CESL admission letter
- Complete the online visa application form
- A passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your expected stay in the U.S.
- A receipt for the visa processing fee for each applicant.
- A receipt for the SEVIS (I-901) fee.
- Financial documentation that demonstrates you have sufficient money to pay tuition and living expenses during your stay in the U.S.
- Proof of your relationships to your spouse and children if they will be applying for visas.
- The CESL Fact Sheet
- Any additional information requested by the U.S. embassy or consulate.

Make an Appointment

If you are applying for a student visa for the first time, an in-person interview is usually required. June, July and August are frequently busy months for visa interview appointments. Do not wait until the last minute to make an appointment. The process may take a couple of weeks to complete.

About Your I-20

An I-20 is enclosed with your pre-arrival materials. You must use the I-20 to apply for your F-1 student visa at the U.S. embassy or consulate near you. You must return CESL's I-20 if you do not use it to get a visa.

If your plans change and you do not come to CESL, you must not use the CESL I-20 to get a visa to enter the U.S.

If you enter the U.S. with CESL's I-20, you must attend at least one session at CESL before you can transfer to another school. You must report to CESL on time and you must attend all of your classes.

Paying the SEVIS Fee

When you go to the U.S. embassy or consulate for your interview, you must take the receipt for the payment of the SEVIS (I-901) fee. For students apply for the F-1 visa, this is \$200. There is no fee for dependents. For complete information and instructions please visit the website, www.fmjfee.com.

To pay this fee you must have your CESL I-20. You will need the SEVIS ID number which is located on the upper right corner and begins with "N". You will also need the CESL school code which is **PHO214F00092000**.

At the Interview

In addition to the documents you present, you need to listen carefully to the questions the official might ask you. Please remember that the F-1 student visa is a non-immigrant visa. Consular officers have the responsibility for issuance or denial of visas. If your visa is denied, you may reapply. Ask the officer how to reapply. Depending on how long you need to wait before reapplying for your visa you will likely need to defer your admission to a future session.

Helpful Websites

U.S. Department of State	www.state.gov
U.S. Embassies abroad	www.usembassy.state.gov
U.S. DHS	http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/
SEVIS (I-901) Fee	www.fmjfee.com

Glossary

SEVIS	Student & Exchange Visitor Information System
SEVP	Student & Exchange Visitor Program
USDHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
USDOS	U.S. Department of State

*This information does not apply to U.S. citizens or U.S. legal permanent residents.