

F-I Visa Application Guide



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Checklist

Have you completed?

- Step 1**
Pay the SEVIS fee
- Step 2**
Contact the embassy
- Step 3**
Make an appointment
- Step 4**
Prepare DS-160 form
- Step 5**
Collect documents for visa appointment
- Step 6**
Prepare for interview questions
- Step 7**
Contact us with visa approval!

STEP 1 Make the SEVIS Payment

To Pay Online

1. Find the Form I-901 (<http://www.FMJfee.com>)
2. Complete the form online and supply the necessary payment information from a Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit cards. Payment can also be made online with a Debit cards (also known as check cards) that have the Visa or MasterCard logo.
3. Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your I-20 form.
4. Print a copy of the online receipt. **This computer-generated receipt can be used to prove you have paid the fee at the U.S. Embassy and at Port of Entry in the United States.**

To Pay By Western Union

1. Follow the instructions (http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu_instr.htm)

To Pay By Mail

1. Complete the I-901 form "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J, and M Nonimmigrants" available online at (<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/>)
2. Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your I-20 form.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on US banks only) in the amount of **\$200 USD**, made payable to "*I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee*"
4. Mail the completed I-901 form and payment to the address listed on Form I-901.
5. A Form I-797 receipt confirmation notice **should be mailed to the address you wrote on the Form I-901** within 3 days of processing the fee.
6. If you want the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to express mail your receipt to you, you must mark "Expedited Delivery" on question #18 of the I-901 form and pay an extra \$30 USD. Or you can wait until the receipt is mailed to via regular postal service.

If you mail the fee, then you must wait at least 3 business days after DHS **receives** your payment before trying to apply for your visa. DHS will mail you a paper receipt (called an I-797) to be used as evidence that you paid. It is strongly recommended that you wait for a copy of the paper fee payment receipt before making a visa application.

STEP 2 Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country

Use this website (<http://www.usembassy.gov/>) to find out the information on visa application requirements and procedures.

STEP 3 Make an appointment for an interview

In your first contact with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate, find out how to make an appointment for the interview as soon as possible.

Find out the appointment and visa wait time: (http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html)

STEP 4 Prepare Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160)

The Form DS-160 is issued by the U.S. Department of State. Use the website below to find the online instructions for how to submit the form directly to the U.S. embassy or consulate where you are applying for the F-1 visa: (http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html)

STEP 5 Collect all supporting documents for visa interview

1. **SEVIS I-20 Form**—Issued by MiraCosta College that you are coming to the U.S. in order to attend MiraCosta College and not intending to stay permanently in the U.S.
2. **Valid bank statement**—provided by you or your financial sponsor that you have sufficient funds to cover all expenses in the U.S.
3. **Educational background**—includes the highest degree transcripts or certificates to demonstrate your educational background.
4. **Test scores**—includes TOEFL, IELTS or any other English tests you have taken for your admissions to MiraCosta College.
5. **Permanent residence**—that you have a residence in your country and will maintain ties to your country via family, job or property which will insure your return home at the end of your study

STEP 6 Prepare for you visa interview

10 points to remember when preparing for your visa interview.

1. Explain ties to your home country
2. Prepare to answer all questions in English
3. Speak for yourself
4. Know your program of study
5. Be brief when answering questions
6. Provide all supporting documents
7. Understand not all applicants are equal
8. Prepare to answer questions on employment
9. Prepare to answer questions on children at home
10. Maintain a positive attitude

For more information: (<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8643&terms=10+points>)

STEP 7 Contact the International Office after your visa interview



Sample F-1 visa

**We will
See you soon
in Oceanside**

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