

# Applying for an F-1 Student Visa

## What is the F-1 Student Visa?

The F-1 Student Visa is required if you wish to study in the United States as a full-time student.

Stafford House can help you apply for an F-1 Student Visa application, if you would like to study in our Intensive and Super Intensive schedules. If you have any questions about the application process, our Program Advisors are available to help you

## How do I get an F-1 Student Visa?

In order to get an F-1 Student Visa, you must first receive the I-20 form from Stafford House. Here are the steps to receive your I-20 form:

- 1. Complete and submit your Stafford House application with all supporting documents:**
  - Passport Copy (Photo page only)
  - A financial statement (bank statement) from you or a sponsoring business or individual which: a) shows at least of \$2,500 USD (for 1 month of study) or \$7500 USD (for 3 months of study) and is less than 90 days old.  
*Example: If you want to study for two months, the Bank Statement needs to show at least \$5,000 USD. If you want to study for four months, the Bank Statement must show at least \$ \$7500 USD.)*
- 2. Pay your Registration Fees**

Stafford House contacts you to collect payment information for your Registration Fees

## How long until I receive my I-20 form?

Once you have completed the application form and submitted all required documents (steps 1 and 2 above), we will send your I-20 form and Acceptance Letter via mail service. Depending on your location, it usually takes 5 to 10 business days to receive your I-20. If you need to receive your I-20 sooner, you can request express delivery.

## How do I apply for the Student Visa?

Once you have received your I-20 form, you have to complete the following steps to schedule your visa interview:

1. Complete the DS-160 Nonimmigrant Visa Application here: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/> and pay the visa application fee as instructed on your local U.S. embassy or consulate's web site. *Make sure you save your payment receipt.* Click here to find your local U.S. embassy: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>
2. Pay for your \$200 USD SEVIS fee here: <https://fmjfee.com/i901fee/desktop/index.jsp?view=desktop>. *Make sure you save your payment receipt*
3. Schedule your visa interview: many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but please schedule it as far in advance

as possible. To find out the wait time for appointment and visa issuance for each post, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/>

### **What do I need for my Visa Interview?**

Bring the following to your visa interview:

- A passport valid for at least six months
- Your I-20 form (please sign at the bottom of the document using a blue ink pen)
- Your Acceptance Letter from Stafford House
- Completed visa applications (DS-160, DS-158, and, if applicable, DS-157)
- Two 2"x 2" photographs in the prescribed format (see the <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/website> for more information)
- The payment receipt for the visa application fee
- The payment receipt for the SEVIS fee. If you have not received an official receipt in the mail when paying electronically, the consulate will accept the temporary receipt printed from your computer. If you do not have a receipt, the consulate may be able to see your payment electronically if your fee payment was processed at least three business days before your interview.
- Financial statement (bank statement), that shows you or your sponsor have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.

### **VERY IMPORTANT:**

Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the U.S. is very helpful and can increase your chances of getting your visa approved. This may include proof of property, a rental contract, a vacation letter from your job or studies, proof of family, or other ties to your community.

### **During the interview:**

Remain calm and answer all questions openly and honestly.

For more visa information, please visit the US Department of State website at: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/frequently-asked-questions.html>