

Applying for A Student Visa

Once you have your I-20 Certificate (or at least the SEVIS #), you can proceed to make an interview appointment for a F-1 student visa.

Visit the website of the U.S. Embassy where you will find instructions on making an appointment for a visa interview and instructions on the application process and needed documents.

<http://www.usembassy.gov/>

Note: the part of the Embassy that deals with visas is the Consulate or Consular Section. You are seeking what is called a “non-immigrant visa” as opposed to an immigrant visa.

Also, you may visit the Education USA website for information on the student visa process:

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/home/visa-information>

Education USA also offers workshops on the visa process in some countries; follow the link at the site to find the advising center in your country.

Be sure to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee at least 3 days before the visa interview date.

Tips for Your Visa Interview

- The Consular official will assess your application and they have the sole power to grant or deny your visa. The Consular’s job is to try to only give a student visa to a qualified applicant who is not planning to stay in the US after they complete their studies.
- The interview itself will usually only be only a few minutes long, so be prepared to be concise and have all your documents ready to present in an organized way.
- Be prepared to explain why you chose to attend NYFA over other schools and why you chose the program of study
 - Things to note about NYFA – it’s accredited, has many prestigious teachers and speakers (see the website or brochure), it provides intensive training in a short amount of time, there are many successful graduates (see website for Alumni Success Stories - <http://www.nyfa.edu/about/alumni.php>)
- You must speak English during the interview.
- It’s important to be truthful as Consular officials are trained to look for signs of applicants being untruthful. So be prepared and be sincere.

- Dress as though for a job interview.
- Be patient and friendly, even though sometimes the employees you will deal with may be impatient or short with you.
- Have all your documents with you including: I-20 Certificate (be sure you sign it), I-901 SEVIS fee receipt, financial documents, transcripts or diplomas of prior schools attended, any documents showing ties to your country (letters of employment, property documents). Check the website of the Embassy, they may have a list of specific documents and procedures.
- Be prepared to explain what you will do with your education upon your return. You must have plans to return home after completion of studies. Any mention of intent to live or work in the US can disqualify you getting a visa. Of course, sometimes plans change but when you are interviewing, you must be expecting to return home, so think about what your next steps will be – whether seeking work or continuing your education.

Subjects that may come up during your visa interview:

1. Any previous travel to the US
2. Your close relatives (parents, siblings) and their travel to the US
3. Your academic background, any other schools you applied to
4. Financial- who is your sponsor, what is your parent's salary, do you have any loans, how will you pay for each year of study, explain any recent deposit of a large amount of money into your account
5. Why do you want to study in the US, what you expect to do upon your return home?

Visa Interview Outcomes

If your visa is approved - you may get the visa stamp immediately or they may hold your passport and send it to you several days later.

As soon as you get the visa, review it for accuracy - make sure it is an F-1 visa and not some other type, and that your name is spelled properly. Occasionally they will make errors, so it's important to check and have them corrected before you travel.

Please scan and email a copy of your visa to international@nyfa.edu.

If your visa is denied - request something in writing giving the reason for denial and contact the NYFA International Office right away for advice. The vast majority of students are successful in obtaining a visa.

Please notify the International Student Office after the visa appointment!!!