

Application of US VISA

Congratulations on receiving and accepting your offer of admission to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After accepting your offer, UIUC will send you the I-20 form, or the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student for your application of US Visa.

We have compiled a list of details to take note of during your application of US Visa. Some of these rules and procedures may have changed. If you are unsure about the details at any point during the application, check the following website <http://evisaforms.state.gov/default.asp> for more information.

There are 3 types of visa for studying in the US: F-1, M-1 and J-1. You only need to be concerned with F-1 or J-1.

- a. F-1, or non-immigrant student visa: This visa is for international students who want to study at an accredited US college or university.
- b. J-1, or exchange visitor: This visa is for people who will be participating in a foreign exchange program in the US. Study in the US is usually for a short period of time of only one or two semesters.

Steps

1. Check for the accuracy of all your personal and college information.
 2. Sign at Section 11.
 3. Go to <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/formSelection.htm> to pay for the SEVIS fee of US\$200. There isn't a need to pay \$35 for the express delivery of the official SEVIS receipt (I-797), unless you are at this stage in July/August.
 4. Print the SEVIS receipt and keep it.
 5. Fill up the DS-160 form. <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/sg/sg-niv-visaapply.html>
This is by far the most detailed declaration that you've to make, and I'm listing information you should have on hand before starting. The system tends to log you out randomly, so do it only when you have the information on hand and about an hour of free time. Note your ID so that you can resume if you get logged out. When you're done, **print the confirmation slip and keep it.**
 - SEVIS Identification Number
 - Name, email and telephone number of school official
 - Address of your college and JC/Secondary school
 - Name, address of places you have worked, including the name of your immediate supervisor
 - All your passport information (including places traveled in the last 5 years)
 - Name, email, phone number and address of two contacts who can verify your visa application details
 - Name and details of close relatives living in the U.S. (immediate family)
 - Your expected date of entry and departure to/from U.S. (that's xx/xx/2012, xx/xx/2016)
1. For me: I've indicated that I'm unemployed at the moment, reason is

"Awaiting college".

2. You are considered to be travelling alone if you're part of an organised group with fellow pre-frosh leaving for college together.

6. You will have to pay for the MRV fee (US\$140 as of 9th April 2012) **in cash** at a local Standard Chartered Bank. Please check the website if unsure (http://usvisa-info.com/en-ca/selfservice/us_fee_payment_options).

You must bring your passport or a copy of your passport's bio page to the bank when you pay the visa fee. At the bank, you must write your passport number, fee payment amount and your telephone number, on the U.S. visa fee collection slip available at Standard Chartered Bank. After receiving your payment, the bank will give you a receipt.

7. Schedule a visa appointment (it may take up to a week or two). Schedule your appointment here <http://cgifederal.force.com/>. You will need to create a new account, enter your profile information and go through a few simple questions. You need your SEVIS number, your DS-160 confirmation number and the MRV receipt number, which is the UID number (the eight digits printed in bold).

Be sure to make an early appointment to avoid the wait. Every single person ahead of you may take up to 20 minutes each.

8. The U.S. Embassy is located at 27 Napier Road, near Tanglin. For your visa interview, ensure that you have:

- A Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application or Confirmation (DS-160) Form.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States. **For most of us this should be at least 2017. Bring your OLD passports as well.**
- One (1) 2x2 (inches) photograph. Kindly check the website for more information on the dimension of the photograph.
http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html
- A receipt showing payment of the non-refundable nonimmigrant visa application processing fee (the MRV fee) of US\$140, paid in local currency.
- Approved I-20 from your U.S. school or program.
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt indicating the SEVIS fee has been paid.
- Letter of Admission from your college.
- Proof of Financial Support
- Academic transcripts ('A' Levels, SATs etc).
- Arrange your documents as follows:
<http://singapore.usembassy.gov/consular/order-of-documents.pdf>

On the day of the interview, reach the embassy at the time stated on your appointment slip. Go queue under the blue tent (on the left of the entrance). After a long while, you'd clear the security and enter the embassy proper. You'd go through one counter and your visa appointment slip will be checked. After that, you'd go into a huge room with many counters. Take a number for your queue. The first counter that calls you, you'd present all your documents and the officer will keep those for checking. You go back and wait... for a long while, before a second counter will call you back for fingerprinting. You'd go back and wait again, before the last counter calls for you and asks you a few questions and returns you the rest of the documents not required for visa printing. They'd keep your current passport, I-20 and the SEVIS receipt. "Your visa is approved!" and you may leave the embassy after that.

9. A sample of possible interview questions:

- Why do you want to study abroad?
- Why do you want to go to USA?
- Is it necessary to study abroad?
- Why have you chosen this university?
- What is special about this university?
- Why do you want to study this course?
- What are you going to study in this course?
- Isn't this course available in your own country? If yes, why do you want to study this course abroad?
- Who will pay for your living and studies in USA?
- Do you have enough funds to study in USA?
- What is your source of income?
- Is your fund enough study in USA?
- What your father does?
- Don't you intend to work in USA?
- What will you do after completion of your studies in USA?
- How can you assure me that you'll return back after your studies in USA?
- What you'll do if you'll fall in love in USA?
- Who lives with you in your family?
- Has anybody from your family gone abroad?

10. You'd get back your passport by the third working day. There will be this visa sticker on your passport. Visa Type/Class should be R/F1 and the expiry date of the visa should be after your course end date. You should get back your SEVIS receipt and your I-20.

Congratulations! You're done with the visa application. Time to think about immunizations, health insurance, setting up a US bank account and getting your air tickets.

More details on the different types of immunizations can be found on the next page.

Immunization Information

For a typical Singaporean:

Immunization against:

- MMR:
 1. 1-2 years (age): Primary Course.
 2. 11-12 years: 1st Booster (Primary 6)

- Diphtheria, Tetanus:
 1. 3 Months: 1st Dose
 2. 4 Months: 2nd Dose
 3. 5 Months: 3rd Dose
 4. 18 Months: 1st Booster
 5. 6 years: 2nd Booster
 6. 12 years: 3rd Booster

- Poliomyelitis
 1. Timeline same as that of Diphtheria

- Hepatitis B
 1. At Birth : 1st Dose
 2. 1 Month: 2nd Dose
 3. 6 Month: 3rd Dose
 4. 1 Year: Booster for children with HEPB Mother only

- Tuberculosis
 1. At Birth: 1st Dose
 2. 6 Years: If no previous vaccination
 3. 12 Years: Booster for all Mantoux non-reactors
 4. 16 Years: Booster for all Mantoux non-reactors, except those with 2 BCG (Vaccine name) scars

Please check your personal health booklet (page 79 -81, and attachments)

Kindly call the immunization clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital
Travelers' Health and Vaccination Clinic (THVC) @ 63572222 if you have further enquires.