



1. Pay the \$100 SEVIS I-901 fee at www.FMJfee.com.
You must pay this fee at least two business days before your F-1 Visa appointment. If you have questions regarding this fee you can contact the SEVIS I-901 Help Desk at 1(800) 892-4829, go to <http://www.usembassy.gov/> and make an appointment to meet with an immigration official at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

You will have to fill out an application and pay a \$131 fee. Specific instructions will be posted on your embassy Web site.

2. Bring the following to your F-1 Visa appointment:
 - Form DS-156 and Form DS-157 (if you are male and between the age of 16 and 45). Both forms must be completed and signed.
 - Your SEVIS I-20 sent in your application packet.
Be sure to submit all 3 pages of the I-20. The form must also be signed by you and by a school official.
 - A passport valid for at least six months after your proposed entry date into the United States
 - Two 2x2 photographs.

3. During your F-1 Visa interview, do the following to increase your chances of obtaining a student visa:

- **Be specific and definite about your plans.**

Be prepared to state what you intend to study and what kind of career it will prepare you for in your country. Be ready to explain why it is better for you to study in the United States than in your country. If the course you wish to study is not offered in your country at the University level, tell the consular officer.

- **Show ties to your home country with documents.**

If your family owns a business, take with you letters from the bank describing the business. If you are married and leaving a spouse behind, bring a copy of your marriage certificate. If you have a brother or sister who studied in the U.S. and then returned home, take a copy of your brother's or sister's diploma and a statement from an employer showing that they have returned home. If possible, show that an individual or company in your home country will give you a job when you return.

If your application for a visa is denied, you may apply again. Sometimes, you may re-apply with the same I-20 and more documentation. If you are not able to obtain an I-20 in order to begin classes on time, you can contact the International Student Advisor at UCSC Extension and they will issue a new I-20 to you for the following semester.

For more information about student visas please visit the following Web sites:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Homepage:
For information on immigration and visitor entry to the U.S.
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

For more information on student visas:
http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html