

Once you have completed the I-20 application process, we will issue a Form I-20 for you and all those who were listed on the I-20 application. You will also receive an *International Student Acceptance Letter*. These will be e-mailed to the e-mail address you indicated on your I-20 application. You must contact the United States embassy that is responsible for your area and arrange for a consular interview where your F-1 visa eligibility will be examined and, if approved, your F-1 visa stamp will be placed in your passport(s) and then returned to you via courier.

Each U.S. embassy has a website linked to <https://www.usembassy.gov/>. This site will have information on how to apply for a student visa, and how to make an interview appointment. Please be aware that the first available appointment may be some time in the future, so please plan accordingly. COVID has caused additional delays in consular appointment scheduling. For additional help on the Department of State F-1 requirements (including a link to see the expected delay in securing the consular appointment) please access: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>. The link to the Form DS-160 is also found on this page. This last page will be an invaluable help as you prepare for your consular visa interview. You will need to have and/or demonstrate the following:

- A valid passport that is valid for at least six months beyond your entrance date into the United States.
- A Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160. You should have proof of this payment in hand. Recent updates to the DS-160 process will require that you enter all social media platforms on which you have had a presence during the last five years. You will not need to enter any passwords, just the platform(s) and the username(s), or handle(s), you have/had while on that platform. Please remember that all social media is in the public domain. Therefore, your social media accounts are neither protected nor private. This would include, but is not limited to, Facebook, Flickr, Google+, Instagram, LinkedIn, MySpace, Pinterest, Reddit, Tumblr, Twitter, and YouTube. Visa applicants must understand, and accept, that immigration officers have the right to view their social media history and activity. Visa applicants should make sure their social media settings and profiles are up to date and be prepared to answer questions regarding information available on their social media accounts at their visa interview. Students requesting a student visa should be sure that their online profiles are up to date and consistent with their intended purpose of travel and terms of their visa. Therefore, anything that they find on those accounts (whether you put it there or someone else did), as well as any other social media account (that may have a picture of you/information about you), is open to public viewing and may impact their decision. This is subject to change as the DHS changes their policies.
- You will normally upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. However, if the upload fails, be prepared to present a photo consistent with the photograph requirements.
- A Form I-20, signed by the Designated School Official (DSO) from our school.
- Financial documentation as evidence of ability to pay tuition and living expenses. Please have copies of all documents that you sent to our office. The foreign advisor at the embassy can ask to see any/all of them.
- Proof of payment of the SEVIS I-901 Fee (<https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html#>). Student should only pay this fee to this website.

This school is authorized under Federal Law to enroll non-immigrant alien students.

- Your academic preparation – this will include diplomas, official transcripts, test scores, certificates, and any scores required by Brightpoint Community College (TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo). These may or may not be required by the embassy.
- Your intent to depart the United States upon completion of the course of study. It is a fundamental part of the consular interview that the student must demonstrate that their time in the United States will not be permanent because they have such strong ties to their home, family, and culture. Current regulation states that **it is the job of a consular officer to presume that *everyone has immigrant intent* and it is the applicant’s responsibility to overcome the burden of this presumption.** It is the burden of the applicant to prove ***non-immigrant intent***, therefore you must be prepared to do so. Certain countries have a higher rate of visa denials due to this issue. Please consult our office on any questions you have about this, and be prepared, if necessary, for multiple attempts.
- Please have all of these documents, in hand, for all family members in your group. Failure to have these documents available may result in your visa being denied. If a student solicits a visa for their family member(s), the student should sign their own I-20 as well as those of any minor, dependent children. The spouse of a student should sign their own I-20. The student will receive an I-20 for an F-1 visa while the spouse and children will receive an I-20 for an F-2 visa. Please understand that F-2 visa holders may not work while in the states and may not take classes full-time at the university level. Please consult our office on any questions you have about this.

F-1 visas for new students can be issued up to 120 days in advance of the start of study. However, you will not be allowed to enter the United States on your student visa more than 30 days before the program start date.

Please schedule the consular visa visit early as there is no guarantee that a visa will be granted. Do not make final travel plans or buy tickets until you have a visa.

For additional help, please see the following resource:

- <https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/10-points-remember-when-applying-student-visa>
- You Tube, at times, will have an actual video of a consular interview from specific embassies and countries. Search for them. If there is not one for your country/embassy, view any/as many as you can to understand what may happen during the interview.
- It is important to practice your answers to routine consular questions. Many students are refused a visa because the students did not answer the question(s) that was asked of them. Department of State consular statements indicate that a consular officer only has some 2-5 minutes in which to decide whether to grant a visa or not. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that the student be especially prepared for the interview. You will have but a brief time to show that you merit the visa.