# U.S. Student Visa Process for International Students

A Step-by-Step Guide to the F1 Visa Application

Presented by Nichols College International Programs Office



#### We will cover the following:

- What is a U.S. Student Visa-(F)?
- Step-by-step application process
  - Required documents
    - Visa interview tips
- What happens after my interview?
- Common issues and how to avoid them

#### What is an F1 Visa?

- I will issue an I-20, which is the document you need to apply for a F-1 Visa
- Non-immigrant visa for fulltime students
- For academic or language training programs
- Issued by U.S. embassies or consulates abroad
- You must first be accepted to a SEVP-certified school, which Nichols is



## Step 1:

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement			I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1653-0038		
SEVIS ID: N0004720633					
SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME		GIVEN NAME		Class of Admission	
PREFERRED NAME		PASSPORT NA	ME	T 1	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH		COUNTRY OF	CITIZENSHIP	<b>F-1</b>	
DATE OF BIRTH		ADMISSION N	UMBER	ACADEMIC AND	
FORM ISSUE REASON		LEGACY NAM	ΙE	LANGUAGE	
SCHOOL INFORMATION					
SCHOOL NAME		SCHOOL ADI	DRESS		
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON A	ARRIVAL	SCHOOL COI	DE AND APPROVAL DATE		
PROGRAM OF STUDY					
EDUCATION LEVEL	MAJOR 1		MAJOR 2		
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY	ENGLISH PROFICIEN	NCY NOTES	EARLIEST ADMISS	SION DATE	
START OF CLASSES	PROGRAM START/EN	ND DATE			
FINANCIALS					
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MC Tuition and Fees Living Expenses Expenses of Dependents (0) Other	ONTHS	STUDENT'S F	UNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS		
TOTAL	\$			ş	
REMARKS					
SCHOOL ATTESTATION  I certify under penalty of perjury that all informate States after review and evaluation in the United St and proof of financial responsibility, which were qualifications meet all standards for admission to designated school official of the above named sch	ates by me or other officials of received at the school prior to the the school and the student will	the school of the stu- ne execution of this for be required to pursue	dent's application, transcripts, or orm. The school has determined a full program of study as defin	other records of courses taken that the above named student's	
SIGNATURE OF:					
STUDENT ATTESTATION  I have read and agreed to comply with the terms a refers specifically to me and is true and correct to purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my noning	the best of my knowledge. I ce school named above, I also aut	rtify that I seek to en thorize the named sch ardian, and student,	ter or remain in the United State nool to release any information fi must sign if student is under l	s temporarily, and solely for the rom my records needed by DHS	
SIGNATURE OF:	v	1	DATE		
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	X SIGNATURE		ADDRESS (city/state on provide	nce/country) DATE	
MANIE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	SIGNATURE		ADDRESS (city/state or provi	uce/country) DATE	

- Apply and be accepted by Nichols College.
- Provide necessary documents to Admissions counselor who forwards to me. This includes passport, financial documents etc.
- I will send you a Form 120 (Certificate of Eligibility)
- Review your F20 for accuracy (Name, program dates, SEVIS ID)

#### Step 2: Pay the SEVIS fee

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1653-0038				
SEVIS ID: N0004720633					
SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME	GIVEN NAME	Class of Admission			
PREFERRED NAME	PASSPORT NAME	T. 1			
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP				
	A NA COCOLOAL AND AND DO				

- Visit: <u>fmjfee.com</u>
- The cost is \$350 (Keep the receipt)
- Required before scheduling your visa interview
- Use SEVIS ID from your I-20

## Step 3:

Complete the DS

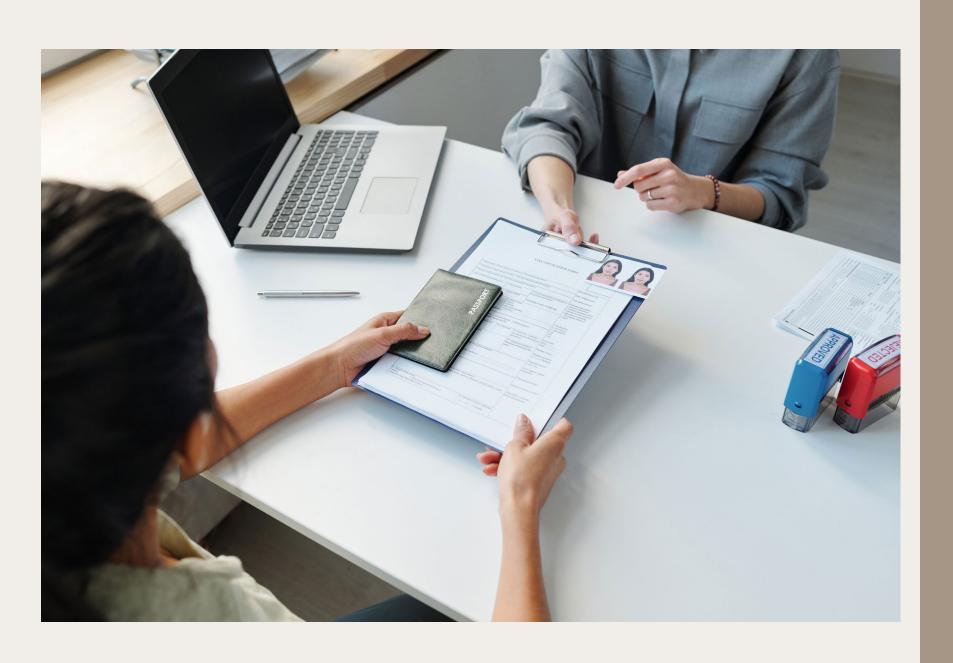
- 160 Form



- Fill out the online visa application form at ceac.state.gov
- Upload a recent photo;
   preferably a passport photo
- Save confirmation page with barcode
- Use this confirmation to book your visa interview

## Step 4:

Schedule a Visa Interview



- Visit your local U.S.
   Embassy/Consulate website.
   Here's a link
- Pay visa application fee (\$185)
- Book earliest available appointment
- Prepare required documents
- Make social media accounts public

## Step 5:

**Required Documents** 



- Valid passport (6+ months beyond program start)
- Form I-20
- DS-160 Confirmation page
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Visa application fee receipt
- Admission letter
- Financial documents
   (bank statements or other proof)
- Transcripts & test scores

## Step 6:

Tips for a Successful Interview



- Be honest and confident
- Speak in English
- Explain your academic goals clearly
- Show strong ties to your home country
- Demonstrate financial ability to study in the U.S.
- Answer the questions they ask

#### After the Interview



- You may be approved, denied, or need additional documents
- You may see a denial immediately in your account, but you may not be denied. Wait a few days a check again.
- Approved: Your passport will be returned with a visa inside
- Check visa for accuracy
- Prepare for arrival to U.S.

#### Arrival in the U.S.



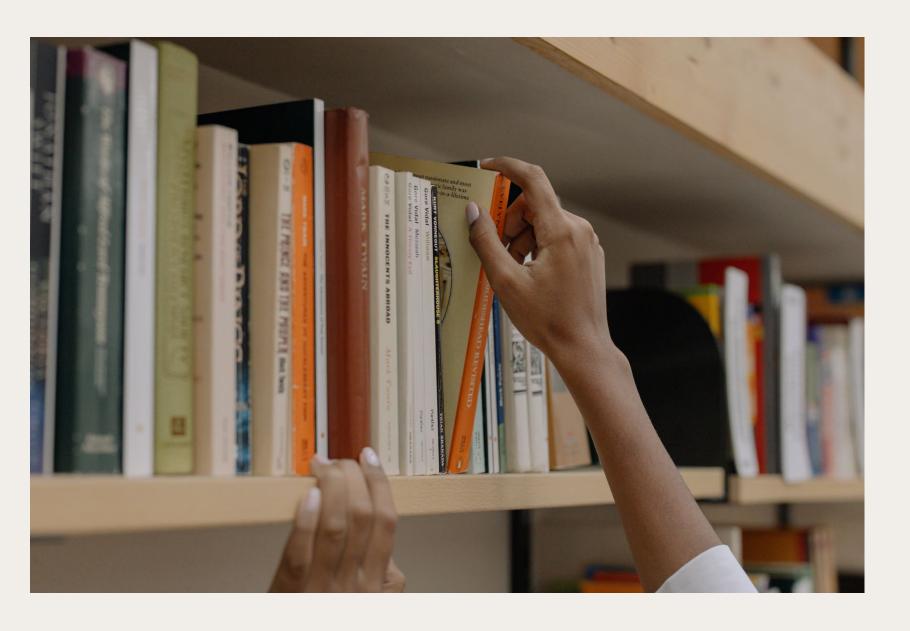
- Present passport, visa, and ‡
   20 at the border
- Expect questions about your program
- You may arrive up to 30 days
   before your program starts
- Report to me when you arrive (I am your PDSO or Principle Designated School Official)

## Common Mistakes to Avoid



- Not paying SEVIS fee
- Incomplete DS-160
   or missing
   documents
- Weak financial support documents
- Giving vague or inconsistent
   answers at the interview

#### Resources



- Study in the States
- U.S. Embassies and
   Consulates
- SEVIS fee Payment
- CEAC DS160 Form





I'm here to help you!

Kristen Malinowski-Paine
1-508-213-2232 (Work)
1-860-428-0415 (What's App)

kristen.malinowskipaine@nichols.edu

