WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

How to secure your F1 Visa

To get an F-1 visa, international students must be accepted to a SEVP-certified school, obtain an I-20 form, pay the {$350-$500} I-901 SEVIS fee, and complete the DS-160 application. Finally, they must schedule a visa interview at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate, bringing financial proof and, if approved, may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before their program start date.

Key Steps in the F-1 Visa Process

1. Acceptance into an SEVP-Certified School: The institution must be approved by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).
2. Receive Form I-20: Once accepted, the school issues a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status (Form I-20).
3. Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee: This fee must be paid before the visa interview.
4. Complete the DS-160 Application: Fill out the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160) and print the confirmation.
5. Schedule and Attend the Interview: Schedule an appointment at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, usually in the applicant's country of residence.
6. Prepare Documentation: Required documents typically include:
    - A valid passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond the intended stay).
    - Form I-20.
    - Form DS-160 confirmation page.
    - Application fee payment receipt.
    - Proof of financial funds to support studies.
    - Academic documents (transcripts, test scores).

Important Considerations

Proof of Funds: Applicants must demonstrate they have sufficient funds for tuition and living expenses.

Non-immigrant Intent: Applicants must show they have a residence in their home country and intend to return there after their studies.

Timing: The visa can be issued up to 120 days before the program start date, but students cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the program starts.

Internet Sources :

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html

https://www.whschool.org/admission/international