

## Preparing For Your J-1/F-1 Visa Interview & Paying the SEVIS Fee

Stand: Februar 2015

This information has been prepared to assist students and exchange visitors who plan to enter the United States for the first time to visit in J-1 or F-1 visa status. For information on bringing dependents to the US, returning to continue studies, renewing your visa, or for more details on how to apply for a student visa refer to the US Department of State website at: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html)

### VISA APPLICATION STEPS:

1. Contact your local US Consulate or Embassy to obtain F-1 or J-1 international student/exchange visit visa application procedures. A list of Consulates and Embassies can be found at <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.
2. After you receive a SEVIS form I-20 or DS-2019 from your American University, follow the US Embassy/Consulate's instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 or J-1 student visa. Apply for your visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 120 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.
3. Pay the SEVIS fee online by filling out form I-901 at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). You must bring the receipt of fee payment with you to the interview! If you have lost the receipt, the Visa Officer should be able to view your payment history in his or her SEVIS database.
4. Complete the following forms:
  - Consulates are now using the **DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application**. This online application replaced forms DS-156, DS-157, and DS-158, the three documents that used to be the complete visa application.
5. Pay the visa application fee by following instructions on your local US embassy or consulate's web site: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa/niv/>
6. Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:
  - A passport valid for at least six months
  - Form SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 (sign the form as appropriate in blue ink)
  - School admission letter
  - Completed visa applications (DS-160)
  - Two 2"x 2" photographs in the prescribed format (see the [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) website)
  - A receipt for the visa application fee
  - A receipt for the SEVIS fee. If you have not received an official receipt in the mail showing payment and you paid the fee electronically, the US embassy or consulate will accept the temporary receipt you printed from your computer. If you do not have a receipt, the consulate may be able to see your payment electronically if your fee payment was processed at least 3 business days before your interview.
  - Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and/or living expenses during the period you intend to study.
  - Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your program in the US. This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community. (This is important since you are applying for a non-immigrant visa.)
7. Remain calm and answer all the Visa Officer's questions to you openly and honestly.