

INFORMATION ON OBTAINING A F-1 STUDENT VISA

As an international student who will be temporarily residing in the United States, you are required to comply with United States immigration laws. The United States strictly enforces a very detailed set of rules and regulations governing foreign nationals. Your adherence to the requirements and procedures articulated below will help you to avoid unnecessary difficulties. Please read the information below carefully.

SEVIS

The Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is an online database that connects the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) with U.S. colleges and universities by providing information on international students and scholars. Applicants for F-1 and J-1 visas are required to pay a one-time SEVIS fee of \$350 to supplement the administration and maintenance costs of SEVIS.

F-1 Student Visas

Having a U.S. visa is like having a key to enter the country. The expiration date on your visa is the last day you may enter the United States from abroad. You need a valid visa every time you enter the country. Depending upon the type of visa you use to enter the U.S., you are subject to different guidelines in order to "maintain status" or remain in this country legally. The Graduate and International Programs office can help guide students through the application for F-1 student visas.

Form I-20

To apply for an F-1 visa, you will need a Form I-20. To obtain a Form I-20, you must meet the following conditions:

1. You have been fully admitted into a program of study at the law school;
2. You have shown proof of financial support for the first year of study. You must submit a complete Certification of Finances form along with the required supporting documents.
3. You have paid your tuition deposit through your portal.

PROCESS

Step 1: Certification of Finances –This form is used to show proof of financial support for your first year of study. You must demonstrate sufficient funding to cover all expenses including tuition, fees, books and living expenses. Funding may come from your own personal account, a private sponsor's account and/or scholarships or loans that have been approved. In addition to filling out the form, you will need to provide adequate verification of the funds. Verification documents include:

- x Letter from your bank or your sponsor's bank stating the available funds. The letter must be on official letterhead and dated within the last three months; and/or
- x Official award letter stating the amount and duration of the scholarship/grant awarded, if applicable; and/or
- x Loan approval letter from the granting institution, stating the loan amount, if applicable.

See the Certification of Finances form below for more information.

Copies of the financial verification documents may be sent to the law school (by email is fine). The originals should be retained by you so that you will have them available when applying for your visa at the U.S. embassy/consulate and for use at the port of entry.

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Step 2: SEVIS Fee - Once you have obtained the Form I-20 from the law school, you will need to pay the required \$350 SEVIS fee, get the fee receipt and make an appointment at the embassy/consulate. To pay your SEVIS fee, please go to www.fmjfee.com.

Step 3: F-1 Visa - You will need to bring the following documents to the embassy/consulate:

- Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status (Form I-20)
- Passport — The passport must be valid for travel to the United States and be valid for at least six months after the date you enter in the United States
- Proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses
- Receipt for the \$350 SEVIS payment
- Any other documents required by your local consular office.

Note: The visa application process and required documents may differ depending upon the requirements of the specific consular office. Please check your local consular office requirements.

Note: Students who are citizens of Canada do not require a visa but are required to present their Form I-20, passport and additional supporting financial documents to the U.S. Immigration Inspector at the U.S. port of entry.

Step 4: Entering the U.S. - You need to present the following documents to an immigration inspector at the U.S. port of entry:

- Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status (Form I-20)
- Passport ~~Passport~~ passport must be valid for travel 0 6 (st)3 W* nBT0 612 792 8 (1lm* nBTBT0 g/TT3 (a)6o3-4 (tu-

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Instructions for Certification of Finances

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E. Application for I-20

Annual Fee: \$1,000.00
Application Fee: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,000.00

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EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED FORM

Applicant	Dependents	Total	Amount to be assured and source	
			Amount	Source* (myself, sponsor such as parents, scholarship, etc.)
US\$36,497	US\$	US\$40,000	US\$ 25,000	Myself
			US\$ 10,000	Sponsor
			US\$ 5,000	Scholarship