

How to apply for a F-1 Visa

Please refer to the instructions below for guidance on how to obtain your F-1 visa.

1-901 SEVIS Fee:

Federal regulation requires all prospective international students and exchange visitors to pay the [I-901 SEVIS Fee](#) upon receipt of Form I-20 and prior to scheduling the visa appointment with U.S. consulates abroad.

Click on the link and select “1-901 Fee Payment”: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html>

Your SEVIS ID is noted at the top of your I-20. Please email DSO once you have completed the payment and we can confirm that it is accurately reflected in your SEVIS account.

Filing the DS 160 Application Online

When you have received your I-20 and paid the SEVIS fee, you will need to complete the Nonimmigrant Visa Application, [Form DS-160](#) online.

We recommend you carefully review the [FAQs](#) on completing the DS 160 prior to starting the application. When you have completed the application, you must print the application form confirmation page to bring to your interview.

To provide time for visa processing, students are encouraged to apply for their visa as soon as they receive their I-20 issued by Sofia University. F-1 visa applicants may schedule their visa interview appointment at a U.S. Embassies or U.S. Consulates up to 12 months in advance of their program start date listed on the I-20.

Scheduling and attending the visa interview

In most countries, student visa applicants must appear in person for the interview. However, each U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate sets its own interview policies and procedures. Students should consult the specific embassy website or call for application instructions; visit the [Website of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions](#) for more information.

The following documents are typically required for the F-1 visa interview:

- Online Non-immigrant Visa Application Form (DS-160) confirmation page. You can find the link to the DS-160 Application form [here](#).
- Visa application fee payment receipt (visit the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate website for specific instructions)
- Hard copy of I-20 issued by Sofia University
- Valid passport (the passport should be valid for at least six months after your date of entry into the U.S.)
- Evidence of financial support (proof of sufficient funds for estimated cost of one academic year)
- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) I-901 fee payment receipt
- A copy of your acceptance letter from Sofia University
- One photograph ([see the U.S. Department of State website for photo requirements](#))

Additional documents to consider:

- Personal CV
- English TOEFL Test Scores or Transcripts if needed

***Note: While it is handy to carry additional documents, do not provide additional evidence during the interview unless you are asked.**

All applicants should be prepared to provide additional information, such as transcripts or diplomas from previously attended institutions, or documents which demonstrate that the applicant intends to return home after their studies.

No assurances regarding the issuance of visas can be given in advance. Therefore, final travel plans or the purchase of non-refundable tickets should not be made until a visa has been issued. After the visa has been issued, please be sure the F-1 visa in your passport is accurate.

We also recommend reviewing NAFSA's 10 points for the F-1 visa interview to help you prepare for the interview.

[NAFSA 10 Points to Remember for the Student Visa Interview](#)