

# How to Apply for an F-1 or J-1 Visa to Study in the U.S.

Congratulations on your admission to Lawrence University! Please read this important information carefully as it will help you prepare for your arrival to Lawrence. Enclosed is your I-20 if you are applying for an F-1 visa, or your DS-2019 if you are applying for a J-1 exchange visa.

Country-specific information about applying for a visa can be found at the U.S. embassy or consulate ([usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov)) where you plan to apply for your visa for any variation to these instructions.

## STEP 1

### **Pay the SEVIS fee online ([fmjfee.com/i901fee/index](http://fmjfee.com/i901fee/index))**

*\$350 for F-1, \$220 for J-1. This is a fee charged by the U.S. government so they can coordinate the SEVP program.*

You will need:

- Your passport
- Your Immigration Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20) issued by Lawrence University
- A credit or debit card

Once you have paid the fee, print a copy of the receipt. You will need this when you make and attend your visa interview appointment.

## STEP 2

### **Complete Form DS-160, Nonimmigrant Visa Application ([ceac.state.gov/genniv](http://ceac.state.gov/genniv))**

Form DS-160 is submitted electronically to the Department of State website. Consular officers use the information entered on the DS-160 to process the visa application and, combined with a personal interview, determine an applicant's eligibility for a nonimmigrant visa. After completing the online form, print the confirmation page. You will need this during the visa application process.

### STEP 3

#### **Schedule your visa interview**

**([travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html))**

Current wait times for an interview appointment are posted by the U.S. Department of State.

### STEP 4

#### **Pay your visa application fee ([usembassy.gov](https://usembassy.gov))**

Contact the U.S. consulate or embassy where you will attend your visa interview for payment instructions.

### STEP 5

#### **Attend your interview ([usembassy.gov](https://usembassy.gov))**

Bring the following documents to the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy for your visa interview:

- Your Form I-20
- Your passport
- Supporting financial documentation
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- The Form DS-160 confirmation ([ceac.state.gov/genniv](https://ceac.state.gov/genniv))

Additional information about applying for a student visa is provided by the U.S. Department of State ([studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/06/five-ways-to-prepare-for-your-visa-interview](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/06/five-ways-to-prepare-for-your-visa-interview)).

## Questions?

Email [admissions@lawrence.edu](mailto:admissions@lawrence.edu)

or call +1 920-832-6500 to be connected with your admissions counselor.