



## Applying for Student Visas and Exchange Visitor Visas

### Student Visa Requirements

#### **1) Evidence of clear intent to be a full-time student**

At the time of your interview, you must present evidence of past academic performance (transcripts) and preparation, including English language ability (this is shown in the visa interview but could also be supported by TOEFL or IELTS scores) and previous academic success. Be prepared to explain why you chose the institution and area of study you did, keeping in mind that which college or university you chose is not nearly as important as why you chose it. You should also be prepared to discuss how your studies fit into your long-term academic and career goals.

#### **2) Evidence of present intent to leave the United States at conclusion of studies**

You must demonstrate a clear intent to depart the United States after you finish your course of study. Evidence of this intent includes showing strong economic, social, and family ties outside of the United States, such that you would be compelled to depart the United States at the conclusion of your course of study. Because we recognize students may not have formed such ties early in life, we also consider your long-term academic and professional plans, and how your course of study fits into those plans.

#### **3) Evidence of sufficient funding sources to cover the cost of the entire education**

At the time of your interview, you should be prepared to demonstrate that you have the funds to cover at least the first year of study, and a source of income for the entire period of study in the United States. If you are submitting bank statements as part of your application, we recommend including transactions for a longer period of time rather than only for a couple of days.

#### **All applicants for a student visa *must* provide:**

- A completed and signed original I-20 or DS-2019 Form issued and endorsed by a school official;
- Proof of SEVIS fee payment. Please visit <http://www.fmjfee.com> for SEVIS fee details payment;
- Printed confirmation page (with barcode) from online DS-160 visa application. Dependents must complete their own separate online application. Please visit: <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/np> for more information on how to apply online using the DS-160 form;
- Applicants may also make inquiries and schedule appointments by calling our new call center, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm, at 1 800 0910114. Callers in the U.S. may also dial (703) 988-3428. You can only book an appointment after you have paid the visa fee at Nepal Investment Bank Limited, and you have received a code number from the bank, which will be printed on your receipt. In many cases, the code will not be “activated,” allowing you to make an appointment, until the next business day. If you are issued a student visa, or a student dependent visa, there is an additional visa reciprocity fee, payable in either United States Dollars or Nepalese Rupees, at the U.S. Embassy after your interview. Reciprocity fees vary depending on your country of citizenship; please visit <http://travel.state.gov/visa/reciprocity/index.htm> for more information;
- Original transcripts from previous academic institutions attended; and
- Other documents that serve as supporting evidence of the student visa requirements listed above.

#### **Applicants with dependents *must* also provide:**

A completed and signed separate original I-20 or DS-2019 Form issued and endorsed by a school official;

- Proof of the student’s relationship to his/her spouse and/or child(ren) (e.g., marriage and birth certificates, photographs, letters, emails, cards, etc);
- Proof that the student has sufficient financial resources to cover both his/her own educational expenses as well as the expenses of his/her dependent(s);

Keep in mind that June, July, August, November, and December are the busiest months in the Consular Section. Students should plan ahead to allow time to overcome any unforeseen problems. Students are encouraged to apply up to 120 days before the date indicated on their I-20 (for F or M visas) or DS-2019 (for J visas). Holders of F, M, or J nonimmigrant visas will not be admitted into the United States until 30 days or less before their program's start date.

### **Student Visa Categories**

The Immigration and Nationality Act provides three nonimmigrant visa categories for persons wishing to study in the United States. The "F" visa is for academic studies; the "M" visa is for nonacademic or vocational studies; the "J" visa is for exchange visitors. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/visa-wizard.html.html> for help in finding out which visa is appropriate for your planned course of study.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Employment**

An F-1 student may not accept off-campus employment at any time during the first year of study. However, after one year, the Department of Homeland Security and the university may, in some circumstances, grant permission to engage in off-campus employment. F-1 students may accept a school's offer for on-campus employment without DHS permission, but only if this employment appears on one's I-20. Except for temporary employment for practical training, an M-1 student may not accept any employment while studying in the United States. For more information, see the DHS Student Information page at <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>.

#### **Family Members**

A spouse and unmarried minor children may be eligible for a nonimmigrant visa to accompany or join the student. Family members must meet all visa eligibility requirements, including evidence that they have sufficient funds for their support, and that they will depart the U.S. when the student's program ends. Dependents must also provide a valid I-20, a certified copy of the principal applicant's academic transcripts and proof of enrollment as a full-time student with 12 or more credit hours. Spouses and children of students may NOT accept employment at any time.

#### **Returning Students**

If you have fallen out of status in the United States, you will need to get a new I-20 and may need to pay a new SEVIS fee (see [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) for more information). If you have continuously maintained your status but need to renew your visa, you should still apply using the normal procedures. In addition to the information listed above, returning students should submit with their visa application:

- A new I-20 or an I-20 issued and endorsed by a school official;
- A certified copy of academic transcripts for each term attended and proof of enrollment as a full-time student with 12 or more credit hours;
- Financial documents from you or your sponsor, showing your ability to cover the cost of your schooling.

#### **Filing order of the documents**

Please file your documents in the following order when you come to the Embassy for the interview:

- Original, signed copy of I-20
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Original academic transcripts
- Other academic qualifications, such as TOEFL, SAT, GRE, or GMAT scores, *if any*
- Other documents

**For Information on educational opportunities in the United States, please contact:**

US Educational Foundation in Nepal (USEF/Nepal; The Fulbright Commission), Gyaneswor, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: 977-1-444-4780, Fax: 977-1-441-0881,

E-mail: [adviserusef@fulbrightnepal.org.np](mailto:adviserusef@fulbrightnepal.org.np) or visit [www.facebook.com/usef.nepal](http://www.facebook.com/usef.nepal).

**For more information on student or other kinds of visas to the United States, please visit**

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/np>, <http://travel.state.gov>, <http://nepal.usembassy.gov> and <https://www.facebook.com/nepal.usembassy>