

Entering the USA with an F-1 Visa

Congratulations on your acceptance to VCU! Before you can enter the United States as an F-1 student, you need to get an F-1 visa from a US Consulate.

How do I get an F-1 visa?

Go to <http://www.usembassy.gov/> and select the consulate that you will visit. Here, you will find out:

- How to make an appointment for a visa interview
- What to bring to your visa interview
- How much you need to pay to apply for a visa

Make sure you check the website to see exactly what you need. Most of the time, you will need the following documents:

1. Your I-20 (sent to you by VCU)
2. Your passport - with at least 6 months left until the expiration date
3. Proof of financial support - can be the same documents you showed VCU when applying
4. Your SEVIS fee receipt

You will also need to:

5. Submit a DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
6. Pay your Visa Fee - go to this website and choose your country: <http://www.ustraveldocs.com>

Paying the SEVIS Fee

Everyone that comes to the US to study on an F-1 Visa must pay the SEVIS fee. You need to bring your receipt with you to the airport – keep it with your passport and I-20.

To pay the fee online:

- Go to this website and choose submit form I-901 fee payment: <https://www.fmjfee.com>
- You will need your SEVIS ID number– located in the top, right corner of your I-20 (it starts with the letter 'N')
- Print the receipt (I-901) and keep it with your I-20

To pay by Western Union or by mail:

- Go to this website and choose submit form I-901 fee payment: <https://www.fmjfee.com>
- Choose payment option and follow the instructions on the payment coupon
- For more information: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu-instructions>