

Applying for a J-1 Visa

Visit the U.S. State Department's website for information about traveling to the U.S., laws you should be aware of, visa information and more: <http://travel.state.gov/>

Applying for a visa takes time and requires the completion of many steps.

1. Find the US Embassy closest to your home: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>
2. Check the website for special instructions for applying for a visa
 - a. Print any checklists that will help you get your documents in order
 - b. Check wait times
 - c. Fill out the visa application form (DS160)
 - i. PLEASE be sure that the name you enter on your visa application is **as it appears in your passport.**
 - ii. PLEASE be sure that any **dates** you enter on this form **are in the correct format.**
 - iii. Make sure your photograph is in the correct format:
http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html
 - d. Pay the application fee (How you can pay this fee depends on what country you are coming from)
For information about fees for Visa Services, visit:
http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1263.html
 - e. Make an appointment
3. Pay the \$220 SEVIS fee
 - a. The SEVIS fee is in addition to the visa application fee.
 - b. You can find instructions for paying the SEVIS fee at:
<http://www.fmjfee.com/>
 - c. Pay the fee at least three business days before the scheduled interview
 - d. DHS will issue an official paper receipt (I-797, which you will receive by mail) **Take this I-797 receipt with you for your visa appointment**

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Information about J-1 Visas:

<http://j1visa.state.gov/>

Information about why visas are denied and what to do if it happens to you:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/denials/denials_1361.html