



WELCOME TO UWM!

International Student and Scholar Services



Phone 414/229-4846
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ISSS@uwm.edu

PREPARING FOR YOUR F-1 VISA INTERVIEW

FOR PEOPLE WHO PLAN TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FIRST TIME!

WHAT TO DO:

1. Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy to ask about how to get an F-1 international student visa. A list of Consulates and Embassies can be found at <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.
2. After you receive an I-20 form from UWM, follow the U.S. Embassy/Consulate's instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa. It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.
3. Complete the following forms, available from the U.S. Consulate or Embassy, or at <http://www.state.gov/m/a/dir/c4456.htm> :
 - **DS-156** Nonimmigrant Visa Application
 - **DS-158** Contact Information and Work History for Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant
 - If a male between the ages of 16 and 45, **DS-157** Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application
4. Pay the visa application fee by following instructions on your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy website.
5. If your I-20 was issued **after September 01, 2004**, and is marked for "initial" attendance (#3 on the Form I-20), you will also need to pay the **\$100 SEVIS fee**. (SEE BACK FOR FUTURE INSTRUCTIONS)
6. Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:
 - A passport valid for at least 6 months
 - Form I-20 (sign under #11)
 - School admission letter
 - Completed visa applications (DS-156, DS-158, and if applicable, DS-157)
 - Two 2"x2" photographs in the prescribed format (see the travel.state.gov website)
 - A receipt for the visa application fee
 - A receipt for the SEVIS fee. If you do not have your receipt and have allowed at least three days from electronic payment of this fee, the Visa Official may be able to see your payment electronically. If you have the receipt, take it.
 - Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.
 - Any information that proves you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the U.S. This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community.
7. Remain calm and answer all the Visa Officer's questions to you openly and honestly.

TO PAY SEVIS FEE ONLINE

- Go to <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/index.htm> and click on “[File the I-901 Form online](#)”
- Read the frequently asked questions, complete the form online and supply the necessary **Visa, MasterCard or American Express** information. ***Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 form.** The School Code for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is **CHI 214F 20408 000**.
- Print a copy of the online receipt.
- Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

TO PAY SEVIS FEE BY MAIL

- Get a paper **Form I-901** online at <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/> or Call **1-800-870-3676** (inside the U.S.) to request the **Form I-901**.
- Complete the **Form I-901**. ***Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 form.** The School Code for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is **CHI 214F 20408 000**.
- Prepare a **check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on U.S. banks only)** in the amount of **\$100 USD**, made payable to “**The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.**”
- **Mail the completed I-901 and payment to the address listed on Form I-901.**
- A **Form I-797** receipt confirmation letter should be mailed within **3 days** of processing the fee. Be sure to make copies of this receipt letter, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

TO PAY BY WESTERN UNION QUICK PAY

The Western Union Quick Pay service allows you to send your payment electronically, directly to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Simply bring your cash payment in local currency – where applicable – to a participating Western Union location. Within minutes, DHS will receive a notification indicating to us that you have made your SEVIS fee payment. There are three steps that you should follow:

- Take the enclosed copy of “**Western Union Quick Pay for U.S. F and M Visas Instructions**” (orange) with the **sample form** on the reverse side to a local participating Western Union Agent location.
- **Go to a local participating Western Union Agent location.** To find the nearest Western Union Agent location go to <http://payment-solutions.com/agent.asp> and select a country or call the telephone number of the Western Union Commercial Services Network Agent in your country as listed in your phone book.
- **Request and fill out the blue form.** You must request a **Blue Form** at the participating local Western Union Agent location. This form may show words such as “Payment Services” or “Quick Pay” printed in the applicable local language. However, please note that **all** Quick Pay forms will be **blue**. The School Code for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is **CHI 214F 20408 000**

Take your receipt of payment with you to the interview. If you have lost the receipt, the Visa Officer should be able to view your payment history in his or her database.

If you are transferring schools, extending your program, applying for an F-2 dependent visa, or have paid this fee and been denied a visa in the last 12 months, you do not need to pay the \$100 SEVIS fee.

For information on bringing dependents to the U.S., returning to continue studies, or renewing your visa, or for more information on how to apply for a student visa, refer to the U.S. Department of State website, at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_types_students2.html

If you have any other questions, please contact ISSS@uwm.edu or 414-229-4846

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