

# APPLYING FOR THE US F-1 STUDENT VISA

## Visa Application Steps:

- Get accepted to an accredited US college or university.
- Pay your enrollment deposit and confirm your first year finances.
- Receive your I-20 document (ideal, not required).
- Complete the DS-160 form and pay the visa processing fee (\$160 USD).
- Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee (\$350 USD).
- Receive a PIN code.
- Make an interview appointment at the US Embassy in Prague (send an email or press the “Expedited Appointment” button in case of an upcoming travel date).
- Bring your I-20 form, SEVIS fee payment confirmation, and evidence of finances for one year to the interview.
- Arrive on time and complete your visa interview.
- Pick up your passport and visa approximately 24 hours later.

## FAQs

### When can F-1 visa holders arrive in the US?

F-1 visa holders can arrive up to 30 days before the start date on their I-20 document.

### What is the latest date to apply for a visa? Can a student enter the country after the start of their program?

Contact your university to discuss any delays to arrival. It is possible to apply for an F-1 visa without an I-20 in case of delays on the university side. Then, the Embassy will consider an “expedited appointment” and visas are typically processed in 24 hours.

### Can my family or friends travel with me to the US?

Yes. When no restrictions are in place for travel between the Schengen area and the Czech Republic, family or friends can travel with you as tourists with an ESTA. When restrictions are in place, policies are reviewed every 30 days.

### Is there anything special I should bring with me to my visa appointment?

Other than the documents above, no. When visiting the US Embassy, electronic devices must be switched off and bags will be checked at a security screening. It is then recommended to leave large items at home or your place of accommodation.

# APPLYING FOR THE US F-1 STUDENT VISA

## When I travel to the US, will I need to fill out more forms after receiving my visa?

When arriving in the US, keep your I-20, passport and visa, and proof of finances in your carry-on baggage to show the Customs and Border Patrol Officer. On the plane, you will also be required to fill out a Customs Form with your personal information and confirmation that you are not traveling in violation of customs regulations.

## What types of documents qualify as “proof of finances”?

These should be the same documents used to confirm your finances during the university admission process. These documents should provide proof that you can pay for the full amount assigned to you or your family on your I-20.

## Resources

- [US Embassy in Prague](#)
- [Study in the States](#)
- [Center for Disease Control \(Coronavirus Travel\)](#)

## NOTES: