



Procedure to Obtain an F or J Student Visa

In order to obtain your student visa in a timely manner and arrive at Florida Gulf Coast University, it is important you pay close attention to the checklist of information attached. Review carefully your I-20 or DS-2019 and the pre-arrival orientation information packet as they contain valuable information that will aid you in your arrival to US and FGCU.

1. Read the information in the Consular Section of the US Embassy's website in your country, or the nearest US consulate: <http://usembassy.state.gov/> and http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html
2. Pay the SEVIS Fee at www.fmjfee.com upon receiving your I-20 or DS-2019 form. Find your SEVIS ID number (N000.....located on the top right corner of your I-20 or DS-2019 form). Your name, date of birth and other information should be written exactly as it is in the I-20 or DS-2019. (Make sure you print a receipt of payment for your records.)
3. Before setting the Visa Interview Appointment, complete the DS-156 Visa Application. Male visa applicants must complete also forms DS-157 and DS-158. <https://evisaforms.state.gov/ds156.asp?lang=1>
http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/forms/forms_1342.html
4. Schedule a visa interview appointment for a non-immigrant visa by visiting the US embassy's website. (Remember, if you are coming to the US on an initial DS-2019 or I-20 form, you will be allowed to enter the US up to 30 days prior to the first day of classes.)
5. Pay the Visa Application fee. Most US Embassies require the equivalent of \$131 USD Interview Fee to be paid prior to the interview date. Bring the receipt with you to the visa interview.
6. At the visa interview, bring: One passport size picture with you. Proof of Visa fee payment, SEVIS (I-901) fee receipt, completed DS-156, DS-157 and DS-158 forms; original I-20/DS-2019, valid Passport, the FGCU letter of acceptance and the pre-arrival orientation information packet, and proof of ties in your home country. Remember that advance travel planning and early visa application are important since visa applications are subject to a greater degree of scrutiny than in the past.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the International Services Office at Internationalservices@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7925.