



Overview of the Steps to Become a Nonimmigrant Student from Outside the United States

1. **The student will apply to and be accepted by an SEVP certified school.**
2. **The applicant will be funded for the cost of schooling and living expenses while in the United States and will furnish proof of sufficient funding to the school.**
3. **When a school accepts a nonimmigrant applicant, it issues a Form I-20 for initial attendance. Prospective nonimmigrant students may apply to more than one SEVP certified school but must choose one and use the Form I-20 from that school when applying for a visa.**
4. **After receiving the Form I-20, the prospective nonimmigrant student must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. For more information visit <https://www.fmjfee.com/901fee/>**
5. **The prospective nonimmigrant student must then obtain a student visa from an embassy or consulate abroad and apply for admittance at a U.S. POE (Point of Entry).**
6. **After obtaining an F-1 visa, the prospective student may apply for entry into the United States through a U.S. POE no more than 30 days prior to the program start date on the student's Form I-20**
7. **Upon entry at the POE, the student must present the following:**
 - **I-20 Form signed by the DSO (Designated School Officer)**
 - **A Valid Visa containing the SEVIS ID number and the name of the school the student will attend**
 - **Financial documentation as evidence of ability to pay tuition and living expenses**
 - **A Valid Passport**
 - **Proof of payment for I-901 fee**
8. **Form I-94 will be issued at the POE and stamped as proof that the student entered the U.S. legally and determine the length of stay, This should be kept for the duration of the student's stay in the U.S.**
9. **The student's SEVIS record will be activated when the student arrives at the school and registers for classes. The DSO will report to SEVIS any student who does not arrive on the required start date.**