What is a Visa?

Permission to apply for entry into the United States
Student Visa Classifications

- **F** Student in an academic or language program
- **J** Exchange Visitor - Secondary School Student, College/University Student, Degree Student, or Non-degree Student
- **M** Vocational Student or Other Nonacademic Student
F-1 Visa: Academic Study

- F-1 visa is for students going to a college, university, or language school in the U.S.
- School issues a signed I-20 to the student.
- Student must register in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) database and present proof of SEVIS fee payment (www.fmjfee.com)
- Must overcome INA 214(b).

Canadian Citizens: Citizens of Canada do not require visas to enter the United States as students, although they must present a valid Form I-20 at the time of admission.
J-1 Visa: Internships or Summer Work Travel

- J-1 visa is for exchange programs, including some internships, training programs, or post-doc opportunities.
- Sponsor institution or third party issues DS-2019 and DS-7002.
- Participant must register in the SEVIS database and present proof of payment.
- Must overcome INA 214(b).
- May be subject to INA 212(e) “two-year rule.”

**Canadian Citizens:** Citizens of Canada do not require visas to enter the United States as exchange visitors, although they must present a valid Form DS-2019 at the time of admission.
B-1/B-2 Visa: Business Visits and Tourism

B-1 – Business Visa
Travel to attend job interviews, business meetings, workshops, etc.

B-2 – Tourist Visa
Short visit for vacation, for visiting family and friends, or for medical treatment.

Canadian Citizens: Citizens of Canada generally do not need visas for tourism.
Before the Interview

- Complete the DS-160 visa application, pay the application fee, and schedule your interview appointment.

- Pay the SEVIS fee at fmjfee.com.

- Ensure your passport will be valid for at least 6 months after your planned arrival in the United States. If it is not, you’ll need to apply for a new one.
Required Documents

- Passport
- Photo
- DS-160 Confirmation Page
- I-20 (F/M visas) or DS-2019 (J visas)
- Receipts for the visa application and SEVIS fee

Additional Documentation - refer to embassy/consulate website for suggested additional documents
Prohibited Items at the Consulate

This list is not all-inclusive. Any items deemed suspicious may be denied entry.
Visa Photos

• Eyeglasses are not allowed in visa photos.

Acceptable Visa Photos

Unacceptable Visa Photos
What is a consular officer looking for?

1. Who you are
2. What you want to do
3. How you’re going to fund it
4. What you intend to do when you have completed your approved activity
Possible Outcomes

Visa Refused

Most Common Refusals

214(b)  221(g)  212(a)
Visa Myths

• There is a right and wrong answer at interviews. **False!** Everyone is unique. Tell us about you and be honest.

• You can get a visa to attend a large-, medium-, or small-sized university. **True!** Public and private colleges and universities of all sizes are approved to admit international students.

• You are more likely to get a visa if you use a fixer. **False!** Fixers have no sway over adjudicators and have no inside information on the process.

• International students are welcome in the United States. **True!** International students are valued members of our academic communities. We continue to issue thousands of student visas each year.
Resources

• Department of State:
  o Travel.State.gov
  o EducationUSA.State.gov
  o J1Visa.State.gov
  o ceac.state.gov/CEACStatTracker

• Department of Homeland Security:
  o StudyintheStates.dhs.gov
Contact Us

Visa Questions & Appointments: canada.usvisa-info.com

General US visa requirements: travel.state.gov

General visa questions: VancouverNIV@state.gov

American citizen services: VancouverACS@state.gov

U.S. Consulate Vancouver

@USConsVancouver