Applying for an F1 Visa

This guide gives you information about how to apply for an F1 visa from out of the country. Once you are accepted for enrollment as a full-time student at Fresno City College (FFC) you must apply for an F1 student visa unless you can study in the U.S. legally with another status (U.S citizenship, permanent residency then you are not an International Student on an F1 Visa).

Required Documents for an F1 Visa Application

- I-20 form
- Online Visa Application Form DS-160
- Passport (valid six months into the future)
- One 2×2 photograph
- Visa application fee receipt
- SEVIS fee payment receipt Cost $200 access at www.fmjfee.com
- Financial documents; Financial Guarantee or Bank letter showing proof that you have enough funds to cover your expenses in the U.S.
- Affidavit of Support form needs to be completed
- On Scholarship…need scholarship letter from your US Embassy then the Affidavit of Support Form is not required
- Transcripts from previous schools you have attended; initially we accept copies and then we need official copies (you can email us the copies)
- **Other documents may be required. Check with the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your country for a complete list of required documents.**

Official U.S. Government websites for F1 Students

For more information about qualifications, required documents, and the online visa application form, visit the U.S. Department of State's Student Visas; http://travel.state.gov /visa/temp/types/types_1268.html page

For specific visa requirements and visa interview appointments, visit the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate in your country, visit the U.S. Department of State's Websites of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions; http://www.usembassy.gov /page.

For wait times to obtain a visa interview at various embassies and consulates, visit the U.S. Department of State's Visa Wait Times – for Interview Appointments and Processing; http://travel.state.gov /visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.htmlpage.

Visa Interview Process

As part of your F1 visa application process, you attend an interview at the U.S Embassy/Consulate in your country. The Consular Officer will interview you and decide whether or not to issue you an F1 Visa. The following information is provided to help you during the interview:

- An F1 visa is for study only. When your program of study is complete, you must return to your country. **It is important to remember this during your interview because the consular officer may decide NOT to issue you a visa if he/she thinks you do not plan to return to your country. You must have a permanent address in your home country while you are studying in the U.S**.
- In addition to the required documents listed above, be prepared to submit your transcripts and financial support documents. The consular officer will check your academic background and request evidence that you have the financial support to cover your tuition and living expenses.
- Be completely honest with the Consular Officer. If he/she believes you are not being truthful, you will be denied a visa. The Consular Officer will ask you questions, not to get you into trouble with your government, but to make sure that you are entering the U.S. to study and not to work, that you have the financial resources to complete your studies, and that you plan to return home.
- Be prepared to tell the Consular Officer why you want to study <u>your major at Fresno City College</u>. It will be important to explain how you learned about Fresno City College and why you decided to study <u>your major</u> in the U.S. instead of your home country. Be prepared to explain why you want to learn English and the major you will study.
- Speak for yourself during the interview. The Consular Officer wants to talk to you, not to your parents or other relatives. If the Consular Officer thinks you need someone else to speak for you, he/she may think you are not ready to be a student in the U.S.
- If you are denied a visa, do not argue with the Consular Officer. Ask for an explanation in writing and find out how you can re-apply for an F1 visa.

We hope your interview will be a good experience; that your visa will be approved, and you will be able to travel to the United States to study. Good luck and we look forward to meeting you!