

How to Get an F-1 Student Visa

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires that all non-U.S. citizens who intend to study in the United States obtain student visas. Tufts University recommends that you follow DHS guidelines.

Please follow the procedure below:

1. Submit to Tufts University Summer Session office financial evidence, in the form of a bank statement or letter from a bank, indicating that you or individuals who are sponsoring you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study.
2. Tufts University will then issue the I-20 document you will use to request an F-1 student visa.
3. When you receive the I-20 from Tufts, you can pay the SEVIS fee (\$200) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security by using the form enclosed in the registration package, or by using the website <https://www.fmjfee.com/index.jhtml>. Please note that the SEVIS registration FEE has increased. Please visit <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/> for details.
4. 90 days before the first day of the program, you may pay the visa fee to the U.S. Department of State (approximately \$200) and schedule an interview with the U.S. embassy or consulate in your country in order to apply for the F-1 visa. Please visit <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/obtainingvisa/index.html> for detailed instructions.
5. When applying for a student visa, all applicants for a student visa **must** provide:
 - A Form I-20 signed by you and a school official in the appropriate places. Be sure to give the Embassy all 3 pages of the I-20 form;
 - A completed nonimmigrant visa application form (DS-156) with photo for each person applying. A separate form is needed for children, even if they are included in a parent's passport. This form is available:
 - <http://evisaforms.state.gov/> and is included in this packet
 - A receipt for visa processing fee. A receipt showing payment of the visa application fee for each applicant, including each child listed in a parent's passport who is also applying for a U.S. visa, is needed;
 - Evidence of payment of the \$200 SEVIS fee
6. All applicants **should be prepared** to provide:
 - Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended;
 - Financial evidence that shows you or individuals who are sponsoring you have sufficient

funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study. For example, if you or your sponsor is a salaried employee, please bring income tax documents and original bank books and/or statements. If you or your sponsor owns a business, please bring business registration, licenses, etc., and tax documents, as well as original bank books and/or statements.

7. Submit all forms, documents and fees as instructed by the Embassy. The visa office may have limited hours and an appointment may be necessary, so begin the application process at least 8 weeks before you wish to depart for the U.S. At this time, all student visa applicants are required to have an interview with an Embassy or Consular official.
8. When you travel to the United States, complete Item 11 (Signature, Name and Date) of the I-20 form on Page 1, and present it to the US immigration official at the US border or airport..
9. You will need your approved I-20 and passport with student visa to enter the United States. Keep it with you and secure.
10. Report to the Tufts Summer English Language Programs office during your first week of classes at Tufts so that Tufts may register you in SEVIS.

Travel periods

Before the program:

According to F-1 visa regulations, students can travel to the United States up to 30 days prior to the first day of their academic program.

After the program:

According to F-1 visa regulations, students may remain in the United States for 60 days after the last day of the program. Students often stay a week or two to travel or visit family. **Tufts dormitories, however, are not available to students after August 8, 2009.**

Please notify the Tufts Summer Session Office, (617) 627-3454 if:

- *The embassy or consulate cannot find your SEVIS record in their database*
- *You are a student who wishes to enter the United States with a spouse or child*
- *You currently hold an F-1 visa from another institution and plan to transfer to Tufts sponsorship*