



University at Buffalo  
*The State University of New York*

Office of International Education  
International Student and Scholar Services

## **APPLYING FOR A U.S. VISA AT A U.S. CONSULATE IN CANADA**

**Information for International Students, Scholars and Employees**

### **How Can I Make an Appointment for a Visa Interview?**

Appointments for visa interviews at U.S. Consulates in Canada can be made by telephone or via the Internet. Applicants interested in making an appointment on-line should visit the website [www.nvars.com](http://www.nvars.com). There is a \$15 fee (Canadian) for this service.

Applicants interested in making an appointment by telephone should call:

From the U.S.:	1-900-443-3131 (\$2.00 per minute)
From Canada:	1-900-451-2778 (\$2.00 per minute)

Please note: If you decide to call the “900” number, you will have to pay a toll charge. You will also have to telephone from a private telephone line, not a public telephone or hotel line. You may also not use a calling card or cellular phone.

- When you call the “900” line, you will be asked to specify a consular location.
- You will be given the first available appointment date and, then, other available dates.
- You can book an appointment for a specific day by keying in a passport number.
- Booking appointments at more than one Consulate is not permitted under the computerized system.
- Appointments must be confirmed with a live operator. If an operator is available, your name and address will be taken and you will be sent an application form, appointment letter and instruction sheet. If an operator is not available, you will be instructed to call back at a specific time.
- You must bring the instruction sheet with you to the interview.

### **I have scheduled an appointment for my visa interview at the U.S. Consulate in Canada. Is there anything else I must do prior to my visa interview?**

YES, if you are going to the Consulate to apply for:

- An **initial F-1 Visa** (including changing from a different visa category to F-1) or
- An **initial J-1 Visa** (including changing from a different visa category to J-1)

Then, you may be required to pay the “**SEVIS fee.**”

- In such cases, **the SEVIS Fee must be paid prior to the date of your visa interview.** *Note: The fee cannot be paid at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.*
- Please see our handout “**The SEVIS Fee Requirement**” to determine whether or not your situation requires you to pay the SEVIS fee and to find out how to pay the SEVIS fee. The handout for F-1 students is available at [www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/pdf\\_files/sevisfee.pdf](http://www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/pdf_files/sevisfee.pdf) and the handout for J-1 Exchange Visitors is available at [www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/pdf\\_files/SEVISFee2.pdf](http://www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/pdf_files/SEVISFee2.pdf)
- For more information about the SEVIS fee, please visit: [www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm)

## **How Long Will I Have to Wait for My Visa?**

Visa processing times are variable. Individuals who are from certain countries or who are studying in certain majors are subjected to more extensive background checks. Such background checks can add several months to the usual processing time for the visa application. Please note that visa applicants are also asked to complete a background form comprised of questions regarding previous military service and weapons training, previous travels and whether the applicant has previously lost any passports.

## **What Happens If My Visa is Denied?**

**You will not be able to re-enter the U.S. if your visa application is denied.**

This means that you will have to fly directly to your home country. Even if your original U.S. visa is unexpired, you will not be able to re-enter the U.S. if your visa application is denied.