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

Information for International Students, Scholars and Employees

Who is eligible to apply for a U.S. visa in Canada?

While nearly anyone may attempt to obtain a U.S. visa in Canada, individuals who are visitors to Canada will likely face additional scrutiny of their visa application. If you are not a resident of Canada, officers at a U.S. Consulate in Canada will not be able to verify the information on your visa application easily. You may, therefore, have greater difficulty establishing eligibility for a U.S. visa in Canada than you would in your home country. In addition, during the busy summer months (June-August), not all U.S. Consulates in Canada accept applications from individuals who are visitors to Canada. Therefore, we recommend that visitors to Canada apply for U.S. visas in their home countries whenever possible.

How can I make an appointment for a visa interview?

Appointments for visa interviews at U.S. Consulates in Canada must be made at the CSC Visa Information Services website: https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-CA/niv

What Are the Steps for Applying for a U.S. Visa in Canada?

1. Complete the online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application (Form DS-160). Form DS-160 can only be completed at: https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC/
2. After completing Form DS-160, return to the U.S. CSC Visa Information Services website: https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-CA/niv. Complete the following steps to schedule a visa interview appointment.
   a. Create a user account.
   b. Enter the Form DS-160 confirmation number for each applicant applying for a visa.
   d. Pay the Nonimmigrant Visa (MRV) application fee(s).
   e. Schedule the visa appointment.
What information do I need before making a visa appointment?

You should have the following information available when you complete the online request for an appointment:

- Your passport number
- Proof that you paid the U.S. visa application fee
- The barcode number from your Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application (Form DS-160)
- Your SEVIS ID number (from your I-20 or DS-2019)
- Your SEVIS I-901 fee receipt (F-1 students and J-1 Exchange Visitors)
- The Petition Number from your Form I-797 (for H-1B employees)
- Your Case Number (for Immigrant Visa applicants)

How can I pay the visa application fee?

You may pay the fee by telephone or online using a credit card. Details of each payment option can be found at: https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-CA/niv/information/fee

What documents should I prepare for the U.S. visa interview?

You should review the ISSS website for information on what to prepare for your visa interview. It is especially important that you have sufficient funds to cover all expenses while in the U.S., evidence that you have significant ties to your home country and evidence that you intend to return to your home country upon completion of your degree.

I have scheduled an appointment for my visa interview at a 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.

- If so, you must pay the SEVIS Fee prior to the date of your visa interview. Note: The fee cannot be paid at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- Please read “The SEVIS Fee Requirement” to determine whether or not you have 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/documents/SEVISFee.pdf and the handout for J-1 Exchange Visitors is available at www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/documents/J-1SEVISFee.pdf
  - For more information about the SEVIS fee, please visit: www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm
How Long Will I Have to Wait for My U.S. Visa?

*Visa processing times* are variable. Individuals who are from certain countries or who are studying in certain majors may be 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 you may have to wait in Canada while your visa application is pending!**

Note: 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.