



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

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 the 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. *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:
www.usvisa-info.com/en-CA/selfservice/ss_country_welcome.

What information do I need before making a visa appointment?

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

- Your passport number
- Proof that the U.S. visa application fee has been paid
- The bar code number from your Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application (Form DS-160).
- SEVIS ID number (from your I-20 or DS-2019)
- Petition Number from your Form I-797 (for H-1B employees)
- 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://www.usvisa-info.com/enCA/selfservice/us_fee_payment_options

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, **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 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/pdf_files/F-1FeeIncrease.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.

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 While My Visa Application is Pending?

You will have to wait in Canada while your visa application is pending. If your visa is approved, your passport with the new visa stamp will be mailed to you.

My Current U.S. Visa is Still Valid. Can I Return to the U.S. While My Visa Application is Pending?

No. Your current visa will be cancelled by the U.S. Embassy so you will not be able to use it to return to the U.S. while your visa application is pending.

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 because your previous visa will be cancelled.