

COLLECT INFORMATION and GET READY

Get form DS-158 and DS-156 from the US Embassy near your home. <http://evisaforms.state.gov/>
Check with the Embassy or Consulate near you for their procedures. Check their websites for this information.

Make an appointment for your visa interview.

Take the following documents with you when you go to your interview:

- Form I-20 included with your admission letter
- A completed DS-158 and DS-156 non-immigrant visa application with a photo of each person applying. These forms are available on-line. <http://evisaforms.state.gov>
- A passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your expected stay in the US.
- A receipt for the visa processing fee for each applicant.
- A receipt for the SEVIS fee.
- Financial documents that show you have sufficient money to pay tuition and living expenses during your time in the US. You must show where the money comes from.
 - Bank books
 - account statements, tax documents
 - proof that transfer of funds is possible
- Proof of your relationships to your spouse and children if you are married and/or have children.
- The CESL Fact Sheet
- Proof of previous English study

Be prepared to show evidence that you have a strong economic, social, family or career ties to your home country.

You must convince the official that:

- you have a residence in your home country
- you intend to return to that residence
- you will leave the US when your course of study is completed
- you need English for future studies and career

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

If you are applying for a student visa for the first time, an in-person interview is usually required. June, July, and August are often the busiest months, so it might be difficult to get an appointment during this time. Don't wait until the last minute! You are encouraged to apply for your visa as soon as you know when you plan to study. Allow several weeks for planning and getting an appointment for the visa. You can call the embassy or go to the embassy web site for information and instructions.

You may request a translator or interpreter when you make your visa interview appointment.

You can check the following website to see how long it will probably take to get an appointment in your city.
http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php

ABOUT YOUR I-20

An I-20 is enclosed with these materials. You must use the I-20 to secure your F-1 Student Visa at the US Embassy near you.

You must return CESL's I-20 if you do not use it to get a visa or if you are denied the visa.

If your plans change and you do not come to CESL, you MUST not use our I-20 to get a visa or to enter the USA.

If you enter the US with CESL's I-20, you must attend at least one session at CESL before you can transfer to another school.

You must report to CESL on time and you must attend all regularly scheduled classes.

When you fill out the form I-901, you will need these numbers:
Your SEVIS id number is on your I-20 in the upper right hand corner
The CESL school ID number is **PHO214F00092000**

PAYING THE SEVIS FEE

When you go to the US embassy for your interview, you must take a receipt for the payment of the SEVIS fee. For students applying for the F-1 visa, this is \$200.00. There is no fee for your dependents. For complete information and instructions about how to pay see the USICE website <http://www.fmjfee.com>

1. You must have your I-20 from CESL.
2. Decide how you will pay your fee.
3. Pay the fee in time to have it processed before a consular official must make a decision about your visa.

The length of time it takes to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and get a receipt depends on how long it takes for:

- You to get your Form I-901 information and SEVP payment
- SEVP to process the payment
- SEVP to deliver the receipt to the address you provided

There are four ways to pay the \$100.00 SEVIS fee and get the Form I-901 information to SEVP:

1. The Internet is fastest. It also speeds the processing step because the online form uses data validation rules to minimize the chances for error. If you file your Form I-901 online and pay with a credit or debit card, you can print a receipt immediately. You will also receive a receipt printed on a Form I-797 in the mail.
2. In any country where Western Union offers Quick Pay service, you may pay the SEVIS fee and submit the Form I-901 at the Western Union office. You will receive a receipt that serves as immediate proof of payment for the visa interview.
3. Courier services offer expedited delivery, but generally cost more than using the mail. If courier service is available, you can decrease this time by sending your payment by courier. You also have the option of paying \$30 for expedited delivery of your receipt.
4. Mail service varies throughout the world; we suggest allowing at least 2 weeks for delivery. If you use regular mail, we suggest allowing at least two weeks for your payment to reach SEVP and two weeks for the receipt to be returned to you.

Filing Form I-901 on-line is not difficult if you are paying with a credit or debit card. However, if you would like CESL to complete the form I-901 for you and charge your credit card for the \$200.00 fee, we can. Please sign the authorization for this on our application form. We will charge you a \$25.00 services fee. We will express mail your SEVIS fee receipt with your I-20.

AT THE INTERVIEW

In addition to the documents you present, you need to listen carefully to the questions the official might ask you.

Even if the official asks you a question that you think is strange, you must answer it. The official is usually trying to decide if you intend to stay in the US after you have completed your program. If the official thinks you plan to stay in the US, he or she must deny your visa. Remember, the F-1 visa is for people who intend to return to their home country. Tell the official when you are going to go home.

In addition, prepare reasons why you want to study English in the US.

- Professional development - How will you use English when you get back to your country? Why is it important for you to know English?
- Do you intend to study another subject once you have finished our English program? What subject? Why do you need English?
- Talk about learning English more quickly and efficiently by studying in the US with interaction with many native speakers.
- Talk about your choice of English program. Show that you know about the school you have applied to and be able to explain your choice if you can.
- We have enclosed a Fact Sheet entitled *Why CESL is the BEST CHOICE for you*. We have listed the things about CESL that we think are our advantages. Take the Fact Sheet to the interview with you in case the officer asks about our program.

DO NOT say you want to go to the US because

- your friends are there
- you like movies or TV from the US
- you have family in the US

Please let us know how your visa visit goes.

cesl@email.arizona.edu

TRY AGAIN

The most frequent reason for a visa refusal is that the official thinks you may not return to your home country. It is not possible to say exactly what evidence you should take to convince the official that you will go home because applicants' circumstances vary a great deal.

Think carefully about your ties to your home country: family, job, home and other commitments. Consular officers have the responsibility for issuance or denial of visas. If your visa is denied, you may re-apply. Ask the officer how to reapply.

Depending on how long you need to wait before reapplying for your visa, you may need to reapply to CESL.

If you decide to re-apply, you should be prepared to show additional evidence or explain in a different way how your situation has changed since the first application.

You should try at least twice. If you are refused a second time, the probability that a third try would succeed is not very high.

WEBSITES

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov>
US Embassies abroad <http://usembassy.state.gov>
SEVIS fee information <http://www.fmjfee.com>

Waiting periods for visa appointments
http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php

GLOSSARY

SEVIS Student & Exchange Visitor Information System
SEVP Student & Exchange Visitor Program
USICE US Immigration & Customs Enforcement
USCIS US Citizenship & Immigration Services
USDOS US Department of State

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GETTING YOUR

STUDENT VISA

We will help you as much as we can to simplify the process of getting your US student visa. Please mail us if you have any questions. cesl@email.arizona.edu

1. **Submit your complete CESL application** and financial documents. We will send you a Form I-20 necessary for your visa application.
2. **Pay the SEVIS fee and get your receipt.** Allow time for processing before your interview appointment. <http://fmjfee.com>
3. **Get information and forms** from the US Embassy or Consulate nearest your home. Follow the directions carefully.
<http://usembassy.state.gov>
<http://evisaforms.state.gov/>
4. **Make an appointment.** Be sure you have time to pay your SEVIS fee and get your receipt before your appointment.
http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php
5. **Prepare for your interview carefully.**
6. **Please let us know what happens**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA