

GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Thank you for choosing Colorado School of English (CSE) for your English education. CSE is authorized, under Federal Law, to enroll non-immigrant international students.

Most international students enrolled in our programs will need a student visa to study in the United States. To make it as easy as possible for you, we've created this resource. If you need additional help with admission, please email our Assistant for International Admission patrick@englishamerica.com

The following is a brief overview of the following steps to take you from this moment to CSE.

- You have submitted your application and financial documents to CSE, and we have sent you an I-20. You will take these documents with you to the embassy. You must use the I-20 to secure your F-1 Student Visa at the US Embassy near you.
- Get information and forms from the [US Embassy or Consulate](#) nearest your home. <http://usembassy.state.gov/>
- Pay the SEVIS \$200.00 fee and get your receipt. <http://fmjfee.com> CSE can do this for you if you authorize it on your application.
- Print a visa application form. <http://evisaforms.state.gov>
- Make an appointment for your visa interview. Allow time to pay the SEVIS fee and get your receipt.
http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php
- Prepare for your interview. Read the advice below carefully.
- Please tell us what happens. patrick@englishamerica.com
- Arrival in the US - see the information below

STEP 1 - PAY THE SEVIS FEE

When you go to the 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 instruction about how to pay see the USICE website <http://fmjfee.com>

There are 3 ways to pay the \$200.00 SEVIS fee, and it is not difficult to complete Form I-901 on-line and pay with a credit or debit card.

1. **The easiest and fastest way is to file your Form I-901 on-line and pay the fee with a credit or debit card. You can print a receipt immediately. See below for the information you will need. ***
2. You may pay the SEVIS fee by Western Union in any country where Western Union offers Quick Pay service. The Western Union office then issues a receipt that serves as immediate proof of payment for a visa

- interview. Instructions for completing the Quick Pay form can be found at http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/wu_instr.htm
3. You can also mail the Form I-901 and your payment, but you must allow at least 4 weeks for the mail to return to you. For more information about mailing the form see the website at <http://fmjfee.com>

*When you fill out the Form I-901 you will need two numbers.

- Your SEVIS ID number is in the upper right hand corner of your I-20.
- CSE's school ID number is DEN214F00708000

STEP 2 - MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE EMBASSY

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. Be sure to allow time to pay the SEVIS fee and get your receipt.

http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php

You may request an interpreter or translator for your interview.

STEP 3- BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

You should make your appointment for your visa interview as soon as possible after receiving your Form I-20 and paying the I-901 SEVIS fee. When you come for your appointment, a consular official will electronically scan your fingerprints. You must bring the following documentation to the interview:

- Form I-20 from CSE and your CSE admission letter
- A complete DS-160 non-immigrant visa application
- Two-inch by two-inch photo of yourself
- A passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your expected stay in the US.
- Receipt for your \$160 visa application fee payment
- Receipt for your SEVIS I-901 fee payment
- Financial documents that show you have sufficient money to pay tuition and living expenses during your time in the US. You may want to bring copies of financial documents you provided to the school. These documents are evidence of the preparations you have made to finance your stay (e.g., bank statements).

- Proof of your relationships to your spouse and children if you are married and/or have children.

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?

Proof of Ties or Connections to Your Home Country & Plans to Return

It is important for you to prove to the US Consular official that you have family, social, and career "ties" or "connections" to your home country. These "ties" will help assure the official that you plan to return home after completing your studies. Below are sample items that may help you prove your ties.

- **a letter or proof that you have been offered a job when you return home.**
- (If your family owns a business) evidence that you plan to return to work in the business upon completion of your US education.
- Proof of your interest in attending a graduate program in your native country upon your return home.
- Information about family members who have traveled or studied overseas and returned.
- A deed proving that you own property in your home country (which can indicate a plan to return).
- Information about your own previous travel to the US (if any), perhaps as a tourist.
- Letters from prominent government officials (mayor, principal, congressman, etc.) offering assurance that you plan to return to your home country.

STEP 4- AT THE INTERVIEW

In order to get your visa you must convince the official that you need to improve your English skills for a specific financial reason, such as a better job or higher education. You should show how you have begun to prepare for this goal by already studying English, but that you can learn more quickly and efficiently by first-hand knowledge of the US culture and interaction with many native speakers in an intensive environment. The most advanced teaching methods and technical help in language learning can be found in the US, and CSE is a leader in intensive English language teaching.

- 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.
- DO NOT say you want to go to the US because your friends are there, you like movies or TV from the US, or you have family in the US

In addition, be prepared to show evidence that you have 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 have strong reasons to return to your country

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.

Remember: by the rules of the job, the embassy official is **required** to assume that each visa applicant is secretly planning to remain in the US forever. If the official thinks you may stay in the US permanently, he/she will reject your application. If you can show convincing reasons for your return home after studying, your application will be accepted. The F-1 visa is only for people who will study in the US, then return home to live in their own country.

VERY IMPORTANT! Always be truthful in your statements to US Consular/Embassy officials. If they find that you have misrepresented yourself or your documents, you will be barred from entering the US in the future.

Proofread your visa when the consular official returns your passport to you – mistakes in the visa information cannot be corrected once you travel. If you find a mistake in your biographical data or your visa type, contact the embassy or consulate to ask officials to correct the error.

STEP 5 – ARRIVAL IN THE US

When you enter the USA, you must show your passport and the I-20

- You must enter the USA by or before the report date on the I-20.
- You may not enter the United States more than 30 days before the beginning of your study program.
- You must leave the United States within 30 days of the end of your program of study.

When you travel, carry your I-20 with your passport. It is always a good idea to carry your original documents with you at all times. Do not put them in your checked baggage. Your passport will be stamped at your port-of-entry to the US, and you will be given a Form I-94. The I-94 should be stapled in your passport. Always carry your I-20 and I-94 with your passport.

Upon Arrival

New Homeland Security procedures for visitors traveling to the US with visas include fingerprints scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph. You may find more information about this procedure at http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Pamphlet_BW_Web.pdf

You can also see arrival information at the Department of Homeland Security web page <http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit>

Keep with you your I-20, passport with visa and bank statement. You will need these documents for the interview with the US Immigration Official at your Port of Entry.

Be prepared for a short interview. Keep answers as simple as possible. The main purpose of your trip is to study English. Tell the truth. Your student visa is a non-immigrant visa, meaning you must leave the country once your studies are completed. You could be re-oriented to a second interview if you have family in the United States. If you encounter any problems whatsoever during your interview, please refer the officer to either Patrick Stirn or the PDSO/DSO at the school. They can be reached at the following phone numbers:

(720) 932-8900 – Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00 pm

(303) 919-0723 – all other times

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU WHEN YOU ARRIVE!

Have a safe journey!

IF YOUR VISA IS DENIED, TRY AGAIN

Most visa requests are granted, so your chances of receiving a student visa are good. But when a request is denied, the main reason (90% of denials) is that the official believes the student actually wants to go to the US to live and work.

If you are denied a visa, ask politely for a reason. Ask if additional documentation could result in an approval, and (if so), what documents would be most useful. Notify Colorado School of English immediately about the denial. Fax your financial documents and other items you showed at the embassy. (Our fax number is: 720-932-0315). Perhaps we can suggest something to help.

If your visa is denied, you can re-apply, but you need more evidence to show you will return home after study and that you have sufficient funds to pay for your educational expenses. You may need to explain in a different way how your situation has changed since your earlier request. Always be polite, but try to make it clear that you plan to return home. Use additional documents and information to show the official that what you say is true. It is not possible to say exactly what evidence will be convincing; every situation is different.

Think again about your ties to your home country. Think about family relationships, jobs, family ownership of home, business, or land. Do you have other evidence to present? For example:

- Will your parents or family at home pay for your study? Bring letters from employers to explain the job, how long they have worked, how much money they earn; or bring copies of savings documents or bank letters.
- Will family members in the US support you? Will you live with them while you study? You must prove that the family can pay for you without difficulty. They may need to send an affidavit (a legal statement) or send copies of pay slips or tax documents to show they can easily pay for your classes and/or living expenses.
- Did you explain your situation clearly the first time? Do not prepare a speech, but think about how you can state your situation clearly and persuasively to the official.
- Did you answer any questions clearly and correctly? Think about the first visit; perhaps you can give additional information that will help the official look favorably on your new request.

If you are refused a second time, you will have to wait for a period before you return. However, the probability of success on a third try is not very high. Each time you apply, you need to provide more documentation, so that you can say truthfully that there are new facts to review and more reason for approval.