



M-1 Visa Process & US Embassy Interview

The Form I-20 you received is an invitation to interview for an M-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The steps to complete the interview process and receive an M-1 visa are as follows:

1. Review and sign your Form I-20

- Verify the accuracy of all information on your Form I-20
- Confirm the name on the Form I-20 matches **EXACTLY** the name on your passport
- Confirm your date of birth is correct (Day/Month/Year)
- Confirm your program start date is correct
- Verify the form is signed by the Designated School Official
- Sign and date the Form I-20
- If any information requires correction, email Chris Walcutt at chris.walcutt@allatps.com as soon as possible

(* If you change your program start date, notify us as soon as possible since the Form I-20 must be revised)

2. Obtain two 2-inch x 2-inch photographs

- Photo requirements website
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html>

3. Complete the Online Visa Application (Form DS-160)

- Start a new application
<https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
- Documents you may need to complete the application
 - Passport
 - Travel itinerary, if confirmed
 - Date of last (5) visits/trips to the United States, if applicable
 - Resume or Curriculum Vitae
 - Form I-20 (SEVIS ID "N" number)
 - School address (on Form I-20)
 - Digital photo (from step #2 above)
- Upload digital photo
- Electronically sign the application
- Pay the non-refundable application fee
- Print the form's confirmation page with barcode



4. Schedule your U.S. Embassy/Consulate interview

- Locate a convenient U.S. Embassy/Consulate location
<http://www.usembassy.gov/>
- Contact the embassy/consulate to schedule an appointment
- When scheduling the appointment, reference your SEVIS ID ("N" number on the Form I-20)
- Embassy/Consulate visa appointment and wait times website
<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/>
- When the appointment is confirmed, please email Chris Walcutt with the interview date.

5. Attend U.S. Embassy/Consulate interview with the following documents:

- **Passport** (valid for at least 6 months beyond intended period of stay)
- **Form I-20** (signed by you AND the Designated School Official)
- **Form I-901** (SEVIS payment confirmation included in the packet you received)
- **Letter of Support/Acceptance Letter** (included in the packet you received)
- **Form DS-160 Confirmation Page with Barcode** (completed visa application from step #3 above)
- **Two 2-inch x 2-inch photographs** (if unable to upload electronic photo from step #2 above)
- **Proof of Financial Responsibility** (recent bank statement)
The embassy will require financial proof of your ability to pay for education abroad. The tuition and fees amount on your Form I-20 should match the training program quote you received. You are required to bring an official bank statement (no web page screen shots) indicating access to funds for at least the amount listed on the Form I-20.
- **Evidence of ties to your home country** (property ownership, immediate family, mortgage payment, employer letter and/or assets that show your intention to return to your home country)

Dress professionally for the interview. Remain calm, polite and answer the Consular Officer's questions openly and honestly. You may be asked to communicate knowledge of the program of study and that you have credible plans and sufficient resources for your intended period of travel. To qualify for nonimmigrant status, you must convince the Consular Officer you will not need or desire to seek employment since foreign nationals may not work in the U.S. while on an M-1 visa. Finally, communicate you will leave the U.S. within 30 days after completing the authorized temporary stay.

6. Notify us of your visa approval or denial

- After receiving confirmation your visa was approved or denied, please email Chris Walcutt.
- When the visa is received, please email an electronic copy of the visa file.

7. Schedule travel to the United States

- When travel plans are confirmed, email Chris Walcutt with your itinerary.

8. Obtain U.S. Dollars

- Exchange some of your country's currency to U.S. dollars before arriving in the United States. Most international airports have currency exchange offices they but may be closed when you arrive.



9. Obtain an international credit card

- Some credit and debit cards will not process purchase transactions in the United States. Prior to arriving in the U.S., please check with your financial institution to confirm your credit and/or debit cards will be accepted.

Entering the United States on your M-1 Visa

Bring your Documents

Make sure you possess all the required documents, including your M-1 visa, original signed Form I-20, and a passport that is valid for at least 6 months AFTER you are scheduled to finish your studies.

Keep electronic and paper copies of all your original documents in case they are lost or stolen. It will be easier to replace them, if needed. Also, have proof of financial support and your residence address abroad in case you are asked to present this information.

Keep required paperwork with you at all times while traveling and do not stow the documents in your checked luggage!

At the border

Even with possession of a U.S. visa, it is possible to be refused entry at the border. The Department of Homeland Security has the authority to permit or deny admission into the U.S. If you do not have the proper documentation or do not comply with the entry procedures, admission to the country may be denied.

You will complete a standard Customs Declaration form (CF-6059) and disclose items you are bringing into the country (the form will identify item types requiring disclosure). You will also be required to provide the address where you will be staying in the United States (NOT the training center's address).

An Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94) will be issued which records your arrival date and documents travel in and out of the United States. Keep this important document with your passport, Form I-20, proof of permanent residence, and proof of financial resources. Each time you leave the country and return, you will be required to present these documents.

Biometrics

Depending on the U.S. point of entry (POE), a Customs Agent may scan your fingerprints and take a digital photograph to verify your identity with the M-1 visa.



Checklist of Required Documents (Do not place the paperwork in your luggage):

- M-1 Visa
- Passport
- Form I-20
- Form I-901
- Proof of financial responsibility (bank statement)
- Address of residence in the U.S. (hotel or family/friend's address)

On the flight you will receive:

- Customs Declaration form (CF-6059)

At the border you will receive:

- Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94)

Make and keep copies of all the above documents while in the United States.

Contact Information:

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