

The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. In the center, there is a faint, circular watermark of a globe showing the continents.

# STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

STUDENT VISA AND SEVIS

# WHAT KIND OF VISA DO I NEED TO STUDY IN THE US?

- MOST NON-U.S. CITIZENS WHO WISH TO STUDENT IN THE US WILL SEEK AN F-1 (NON-IMMIGRANT) STUDENT VISA, BUT THERE ARE OTHER VISA TYPES THAT ARE SOMETIMES AUTHORIZED FOR THOSE THAT STUDY IN THE U.S.
  - F-1, OR STUDENT VISA: THIS VISA IS THE MOST COMMON FOR THOSE THAT WISH TO ENGAGE IN ACADEMIC STUDENTS IN THE U.S. IT IS FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL STUDY AT AN ACCREDITED U.S. SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.
  - J-1, OR EXCHANGE VISITOR: THIS VISA IS FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL PARTICIPATING IN AN EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM IN THE U.S. THE “J” VISA IS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. 1 YEAR



# WHAT KIND OF VISA DOES MY FAMILY NEED TO ACCOMPANY ME?

- IF YOU ARE LISTED AS AN F2 STATUS ON YOUR PARENTS F1 VISA YOU WILL NEED TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION TO OUR OFFICE.
  - IF YOUR PARENTS ARE COMING TO GET YOU STARTED AT SCHOOL OR TO VISIT THEY NEED TO APPLY FOR A B1 VISA.
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# PREPARING FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW IN 5 STEPS

- GET YOUR I-20
- CHECK YOUR PASSPORT
- COMPLETE THE DS-160
- PAY THE SEVIS FEE
- PAY THE VISA FEE AND MAKE AN INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT (YOU WILL NEED YOUR SEVIS #)

# ACADEMIC / I-20 REQUIREMENTS

- YOU WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
- COMPLETE THE ACADEMIC APPLICATION AND PROVIDE PROPER PAPERWORK
- IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ACCEPTANCE LETTER
- COMPLETE THE DIOCESAN APPLICATION PACKET, PROVIDE PROPER PAPERWORK AND PAYMENT
- YOUR I-20 WILL BE MAILED FEDX TO YOU IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY.

# APPLYING FOR A VISA

## STEP 1: GET YOUR I-20

- IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR A VISA, YOU MUST FIRST HAVE AN I-20 ISSUED BY THE U.S. SCHOOL YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. THE U.S. ACADEMIC SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE APPROPRIATE FORM WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN ACADEMICALLY ADMITTED.

# APPLYING FOR A VISA

## STEP 2: CHECK YOUR PASSPORT

- MAKE SURE YOUR PASSPORT IS CURRENT AND VALID FOR THE TIME YOU PLAN TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES. IF YOUR PASSPORT EXPIRES WHILE YOU ARE STUDYING, YOU WILL HAVE TO RENEW IT AT THE NEAREST CONSULATE, WHICH MAY NOT BE CONVENIENT TO YOUR SCHOOL.
  - \*AS A MINOR YOU CAN NOT TRAVEL THE U.S. WITHOUT AN ADULT APPROVED CHAPERONE
  - \*AS A MINOR YOU CAN NOT STAY IN A HOTEL ALONE

# APPLYING FOR A VISA

## STEP 3: COMPLETE THE DS-160

- THE DS-160 IS THE BASIC APPLICATION FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF NON-IMMIGRATION VISAS. IT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [HTTPS://CEAC.STATE.GOV/GENNIV](https://ceac.state.gov/genniv)
- ONCE YOU COMPLETE THE APPLICATION, A BARCODE WILL APPEAR. YOUR APPLICATION INFORMATION WILL BE STORED IN THIS BARCODE. YOU MUST BRING THIS PRINTED BARCODE AND ONE 2X2 PHOTO TO THE INTERVIEW.



# APPLYING FOR A VISA

## STEP 4: PAY THE SEVIS FEE

- BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW YOU MUST ALSO PAY A STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR SYSTEM (“SEVIS”) REGISTRATION FEE. YOU CAN PAY THE SEVIS FEE ONLINE AT: [WWW.FMJFEE.COM](http://WWW.FMJFEE.COM)
- DHS/ICE USE SEVIS TO TRACK AND MONITOR SCHOOLS AND PROGRAM, STUDENTS, EXCHANGE VISITORS THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF APPROVED PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE U.S. EDUCATION SYSTEM.
- YOU MUST HAVE A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE I-20 TO PAY THE SEVIS FEE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN I-20, OR IF THE INFORMATION ON THE FORM IS INCORRECT, CONTACT VIRGINIA TRUJILLO, [TRUJILLO@DAVENPORTDIOCESE.ORG](mailto:TRUJILLO@DAVENPORTDIOCESE.ORG) FOR A CORRECTED FORM BEFORE YOU CONTINUE.

# APPLYING FOR A VISA

## STEP 4: PAY THE SEVIS FEE (CONT.)

- WHEN YOU PAY THE SEVIS FEE, THE PROGRAM WILL GENERATE A FORM I-901 PAYMENT RECEIPT. ENSURE A PRINTER IS CONNECTED AND WORKING BEFORE CONTINUING. YOU CAN *NOT RETURN TO THE PAGE AND PRINT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT AT A LATER TIME.*
- SAVE THIS RECEIPT AND BRING IT TO YOUR VISA INTERVIEW.
- THE PDSO WILL ALSO NEED A COPY OF THIS.

# APPLYING FOR A VISA

## STEP 5: PAY THE APPLICATION FEE AND MAKE AN INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT

- GO TO [HTTP://USVISA-INFO.COM](http://usvisa-info.com) TO PAY THE VISA FEE AND SCHEDULE YOUR INTERVIEW.
- YOU WILL NEED YOUR I-20 SEVIS NUMBER
- FOR A STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTION OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS, WATCH:  
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/USEMBASSYQUITO?FEATURE-MHEE#P/A/U/O/ZRQY5KFOOP8](http://www.youtube.com/user/usembassyquito?feature=mhee#p/a/u/o/zrQY5KFOOP8)

# PRE-INTERVIEW CHECKLIST

- GET YOUR I-20 AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FROM OUR DIOCESE/SCHOOL
  - I-20 SIGNED IN BLUE BY PDSO
  - DECLARATION OF FINANCES
  - BANK STATEMENT IN US DOLLARS
  - SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE LETTER
- CHECK YOUR PASSPORT EXPIRATION
- COMPLETE THE DS-160 ONLINE AND PRINT THE BAR CODE
- PAY THE SEVIS FEE
- PAY THE VISA FEE AND MAKE AN INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT

# THE INTERVIEW

- ON THE DAY OF YOUR INTERVIEW, YOUR PARENT/S AND YOU SHOULD GO TO THE CONSULAR SECTION AT YOUR DESIGNATED INTERVIEW TIME. THE CONSULAR SECTION IS LOCATED IN THE U.S. EMBASSY.
- WHEN YOU ARRIVE, GREETERS WILL REVIEW YOUR INFORMATION, YOU WILL PASS THROUGH SECURITY, BE FINGERPRINTED, AND THEN SIT IN A WAITING ROOM. THE ENTIRE PROCESS CAN TAKE SEVERAL HOURS.

# WHAT TO BRING TO THE INTERVIEW

- VALID PASSPORT
- 2X2 PHOTO
- I-20
- SEVIS I-901 RECEIPT
- DS-160 NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION CONFIRMATION
- FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

# WHAT WILL THE OFFICER ASK ME?

- IF ENGLISH IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PROGRAM, THE OFFICER WILL CONDUCT YOUR INTERVIEW IN ENGLISH.
- THE OFFICER WILL REVIEW YOUR I-20 AND SEVIS RECEIPT.
- THE OFFICER WILL ALSO REVIEW YOUR FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS. FOR AN F-1 VISA, YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF STUDY.
- OTHER QUESTIONS MAY INCLUDE WHY YOU CHOSE YOUR SCHOOL AND DETAILS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND LIFE.

# IMPORTANT

- NO ASSURANCES REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS CAN BE GIVEN IN ADVANCE. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT MAKING FINAL TRAVEL PLANS OR PURCHASING NON-REFUNDABLE TICKETS UNTIL YOUR VISA HAS BEEN ISSUED.
- IF YOU ARE DENIED AND WISH TO MAKE A NEW APPOINTMENT PLEASE LET THE PDSO AND SCHOOL KNOW.
- IF YOU ARE GRANTED PLEASE LET THE PDSO AND SCHOOL KNOW YOUR ARRIVAL DATE.



# TIMING

- ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU CAN DO TO ENSURE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THE START OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN THE U.S. IS TO PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE, NOT ONLY FOR THE ACADEMIC PORTION OF YOUR U.S. PROGRAM, BUT ALSO FOR THE VISA PROCESS.
- ONCE YOU HAVE ALL THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION, YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR THE VISA, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO BEGIN YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IT IS BEST TO APPLY EARLY FOR THE VISA TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME FOR VISA PROCESSING.

## TIMING (CONT.)

- THERE ARE TWO ADDITIONAL BITS OF INFORMATION THAT ARE USEFUL TO KNOW.
  - THE FIRST IS THAT THE CONSULAR SECTION CANNOT ISSUE A VISA MORE THAN 120 DAYS BEFORE THE ACTUAL START OF THE PROGRAM IN THE U.S. THUS, IF THE SCHOOL TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ADMITTED STATES ON THE I-20 THAT THE PROGRAM WILL START ON AUGUST 23, A VISA CANNOT BE ISSUED BEFORE MAY 23.
  - SECOND, EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN ISSUED A VISA TO ENTER THE U.S., YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY MORE THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE PROGRAM IF YOU ARE AN INITIAL ENTRY STUDENT. RETURNING STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE THIS REQUIREMENT. USING THE EARLIER EXAMPLE, IF THE PROGRAM OF STUDY STARTS ON AUGUST 23, YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE U.S. UNTIL JULY 23 OR LATER BUT NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 23.

# TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES

- A VISA ONLY ALLOWS A FOREIGN CITIZEN COMING FROM ABROAD TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. PORT-OF-ENTRY AND REQUEST PERMISSION TO ENTER THE U.S. APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT A VISA DOES NOT GUARANTEE ENTRY INTO THE U.S. THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) OFFICIALS HAVE THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO PERMIT OR DENY ADMISSION TO THE U.S.

# PAPERWORK REQUIRED AT THE BORDER

- TRAVEL WITH YOUR PASSPORT, I-20 AND SEVIS RECEIPT IN HAND: **DO NOT** PACK YOUR PAPERWORK IN YOUR LUGGAGE. **STUDENT VISITORS MUST HAVE THESE DOCUMENTS IN THEIR POSSESSION EVERY TIME THEY ENTER THE UNITED STATES.**

# KEEP YOUR I-94 IN YOUR PASSPORT

- ON YOUR PLANE TO THE U.S. OR WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE U.S., YOU WILL RECEIVE A FORM I-94 (ELECTRONIC ARRIVAL-DEPARTURE RECORD). PLEASE SAFEGUARD THIS FORM; IT CONTAINS THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF YOUR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES.
- THE CBP OFFICIAL WILL DETERMINE THE LENGTH OF YOUR VISIT ON THE ARRIVAL-DEPARTURE RECORD (FORM I-94). SINCE FORM I-94 DOCUMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED STAY IN THE UNITED STATES, IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN YOUR PASSPORT.

# IMMIGRATION

- THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL WILL ASK YOU WHY YOU ARE VISITING THE UNITED STATES AND REQUEST YOUR PAPERWORK. YOU WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED AND FINGERPRINTED AND ENROLLED IN THE U.S. – VISIT PROGRAM.
- AS A STUDENT, YOU WILL APPLY TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES USING YOUR F1 STUDENT VISA. NOTE: IF YOU ALSO HAVE A B1 /B2 TOURIST VISA IN YOUR PASSPORT, DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN HOLD MULTIPLE VISAS AT THE SAME TIME.

# DURATION OF STATUS

- IF YOU ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES ON YOUR STUDENT VISA, YOU WILL USUALLY BE ADMITTED FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR STUDENT STATUS. THAT MEANS YOU MAY STAY AS LONG AS YOU ARE A FULL TIME STUDENT, EVEN IF THE F-1 VISA IN YOUR PASSPORT EXPIRES WHILE YOU ARE IN THE UNITED STATES.
- NOTE: FOR A STUDENT WHO HAS COMPLETED THE COURSE OF STUDIES (GRADUATED) SHOWN ON THE I-20, AN F-1 STUDENT MUST TRANSFER TO COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OR LEAVE THE HOST FAMILY HOME WITHIN 5 DAYS.

## DURATION OF STATUS: EXAMPLE

- AS AN EXAMPLE REGARDING DURATION OF STATUS, IF YOU HAVE A VISA THAT IS VALID FOR FIVE YEARS THAT WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 1, 2019, AND YOU ARE ADMITTED INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR STUDIES (OFTEN ABBREVIATED IN YOUR PASSPORT OR ON YOUR I-94 AS “D/S”), YOU MAY STAY IN THE UNITED STATES AS LONG AS YOU ARE A FULL-TIME STUDENT. EVEN IF JANUARY 1, 2019 PASSES AND YOUR VISA EXPIRES WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU WILL STILL BE IN LEGAL STUDENT STATUS.
- IF YOU DEPART THE UNITED STATES WITH AN EXPIRED VISA YOU WILL NEED TO OBTAIN A NEW ONE, APPLYING AT AN EMBASSY ABROAD, BEFORE YOU CAN RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TO RESUME YOUR STUDIES.



# OVERSTAYS

- STAYING UNLAWFULLY IN THE UNITED STATES BEYOND THE DATE CBP OFFICIALS HAVE AUTHORIZED, EVEN BY ONE DAY, RESULTS IN YOUR VISA BEING AUTOMATICALLY VOIDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH IMMIGRATION LAW. IN THIS SITUATION YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REAPPLY FOR A NEW NONIMMIGRANT VISA. OVERSTAYS MAY CAUSE YOU TO BE INELIGIBLE FOR A VISA IN THE FUTURE FOR RETURN TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES.
- IT IS ALSO ILLEGAL TO QUIT STUDYING BUT REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES ON YOUR STUDENT VISA. STUDENTS WHO DO SO WILL ALMOST SURELY BECOME INELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES.

# WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- ONCE YOU ARRIVE, YOU SHOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.
- THEY CAN HELP YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE. IMMIGRATION RULES AND REGULATION QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE PDSO, VIRGINIA TRUJILLO, [TRUJILLO@DAVNEPORTDIOCESE.ORG](mailto:TRUJILLO@DAVNEPORTDIOCESE.ORG).
- THE SCHOOL OFFICE MUST REPORT YOUR ARRIVAL TO THE PDSO, WHO WILL THEN REPORT YOUR ARRIVAL IN SEVIS. IF THIS REPORT IS NOT SUBMITTED, YOU MAY BE CONSIDERED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF YOUR STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES, SO BE SURE TO MAKE THE SCHOOL OFFICE ONE OF YOUR FIRST STOPS.

# SCHOOL OFFICE ASSISTANCE

- YOU WILL NEED TO WORK WITH THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO
  - PAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FULL YEAR OF TUITION
  - GET INSURANCE
  - ASSIST WITH UNIFORMS
  - PAY LUNCHES, ETC.
- THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL NEED TO GET A COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING:
  - I-20 YOU ENTERED INTO THE UNITED STATES
  - COPY OF I-94 RECEIPT
  - COPY OF I-901 FEE RECEIPT
  - COPY OF F1 VISA

# PDSO OFFICE

- SCHOOL WILL NEED TO NOTIFY PDSO OFFICE.
- THE PDSO WILL:
  - REGISTER YOU IN SEVIS
  - PRINT AND SIGN PAGE 1 AND PAGE 2 OF THE REGISTERED I-20
  - MAIL YOU THE REGISTERED I-20
- NOTE: YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP THE REGISTERED I-20 WITH YOUR OTHER I-20. *KEEP ALL OF THEM FOREVER.*
- NOTE: YOU CAN NOT LEAVE THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT THE PDSO SIGNATURE ON PAGE 2 OF YOUR I-20 AND HAS TO BE A CURRENT SIGNATURE IN BLUE NO OLDER THAN 1 YEAR.