



Student Visa Application Guide

Information and Tips for Your Transition



Congratulations

on your enrollment at Full Sail University

We have put together this information in order to assist you throughout the process of coming to the United States - from obtaining your student visa to what you'll need to gain entry to the country.

Remember, we are here to help. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about your documents, your interview, or anything else.

Schedule a Visa Preparation Session

In order to ensure that you are prepared for your embassy interview, please contact your Full Sail liaison to schedule a preparation session.

On the next page, you will find some additional tips on what to expect in your embassy interview.

Getting Started

Prior to applying for your student visa, you will need to pay your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. You may pay this fee online or by mail. If paying online, it is advisable to print your receipt and keep it with the rest of your documentation.

For instructions on how to pay your SEVIS fee, visit www.fmjfee.com

Your Visa Application and Interview

Every situation is different, but here are some tips for a smooth process when applying for a student visa.

Arrive early!

English:

Assume that the interview will be conducted in English.

Be brief:

Because of how many applications are received, all officers are under pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. As a result, keep your answers short and to the point.

Not all countries are the same:

Applicants from countries suffering from economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the U.S. as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about whether they will have job opportunities upon returning home after studying in the U.S.

Ties to your home country:

It's important for the interviewing officer to know that you intend to return home, and that you have personal, career-related, and financial interests in your homeland. Since you are a student, the interviewing officer may ask about your intentions when it comes to your educational goals, your grades, and what your career plans are when you return home.

Know your degree and how it relates to your career plans:

Become very familiar with your degree program and courses, as well as why you chose this major. You should also be able to explain how studying in the U.S. relates to your future career when you return home.

Documentation:

Only bring the required documents indicated on the embassy's website to your interview. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. You will have approximately 2-3 minutes of interview time at most.

Maintain a positive attitude:

Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, politely ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason for your denial in writing.

Employment:

Your main purpose in coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work here after graduation. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program.



Tips for Your U.S. Arrival

1 Plan your arrival date carefully:

When planning your travel to the U.S., ensure you arrive no more than 30 days before the program start date on your I-20 form.

2 Hand-carry your documents:

Do not check any of the following documents into your baggage:

- Your passport, valid for at least one year beyond the start date of your degree program
- Your F-1 student visa – stamp should be in your passport booklet
- SEVIS I-20 Form
- It is also advised that you hand-carry all additional documentation, such as your evidence of financial resources, SEVIS fee receipt, and name and contact info for your designated school official (including a 24-hour emergency contact number)

3 Complete your entry paperwork:

If you're arriving by air, your flight attendant will distribute Customs Declaration Forms (CF-6059) and Arrival Departure Record Forms (I-94). If you're arriving by land or sea, the CBP officer at the port of entry will provide these forms.

4 As you arrive at the port of entry:

Proceed to the terminal area for arriving passengers. Have your passport, SEVIS I-20 Form, and CF-6059 form.

You will be asked to state your reason for wishing to enter the U.S. – it is important that you tell the Customs and Border Protection officer that you will be a student. Be prepared to tell them Full Sail's name and address, as well as your program name.



We're here for you.

The International team at Full Sail is on hand to help you with your transition to the United States. We're excited to see you pursue your dream, and we'll do all we can to help you get here to make it happen.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 01.407.679.0100 or email your Admissions Representative.

Essential Full Sail Information

Full Sail University
3300 University Blvd.
Winter Park, FL 32792

800.226.7625 (toll free in the U.S.)
407.679.0100 (outside the U.S.)

admissionsinternational@fullsail.com

Your Checklist

Visa preparation session with Full Sail liaison

Pay your SEVIS fee

Apply for your embassy appointment

Arrive early for your appointment, and don't forget your documents:

- Original I-20
 - Valid passport
 - Current financial documents
 - Language proficiency document (if applicable)
 - SEVIS fee receipt
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Review and ensure the accuracy of your personal information

Prepare for arrival in the U.S.

Financial aid is available for those who qualify • Career development assistance • Accredited University, ACCSC

To review consumer disclosures, please visit fullsail.edu/gedt.

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