

Student Visa Procedures

Your course of study and the type of school you plan to attend determine the appropriate visa classification.

F-1 Student Visa: The most common visa for those who want to study in the United States. It is for individuals who want to study at an accredited U.S. college or university or study English at a university or intensive English language institute.

J-1 Exchange Visa: This visa is for individuals who will be participating in an exchange program, including programs that provide high school and university study.

M-1 Student Visa: This visa is for individuals who will be engaged in non-academic or vocational study or training in the United States.

How to Apply for F-1 and M-1 Student Visas

Step 1: Get accepted by an SEVP-approved school.

Step 2: Enroll in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Step 3: Pay the \$350 SEVIS fee.

Step 4: Complete the online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, [Form DS-160](#).

Step 5: Schedule an interview at U.S. Embassy Niamey via the [portal on the Embassy's website](#), if it's not available, send an email to ConsulateNiamey@state.gov with an appointment request.

Step 5: Appear at U.S. Embassy Niamey for the scheduled interview. Bring documents in support of your visa application, including:

- Valid passport.
- Valid I-20 Form (Issued by your college after acceptance).
- Non-immigrant visa application (DS-160) confirmation page.
- Proof of payment of SEVIS fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Transcripts and diplomas from all previous academic work.
- Evidence of sufficient financial resources to cover all educational, living, and travel expenses.

Step 6: Pay the \$160 visa application fee at U.S. Embassy Niamey.

Step 7: Go through your scheduled interview with a consular officer.

Step 8: If the visa is approved, pay a [reciprocity fee](#) (\$95 for Nigeriens).

Step 9: Travel to the United States. You may arrive up to 30 days before the start date listed on your I-20 Form.

Resources:

1. [EducationUSA](https://educationusa.state.gov/): <https://educationusa.state.gov/>
2. [Embassy's website](https://ne.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas-study-exchange/): <https://ne.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas-study-exchange/>
3. [Visa procedures and required documents](https://travel.state.gov/): <https://travel.state.gov/>
4. [Student and Exchange Visitor Program](https://www.ice.gov/sevis): <https://www.ice.gov/sevis>