

Applying for a Visa at a US Embassy or Consulate

As with all nonimmigrant classifications, the most important requirement to obtain a J-1 visa is the demonstration of nonimmigrant intent. The student must maintain a home abroad that they have no intention of abandoning. The student/scholar must be coming to the US to pursue a full course of academic study, and must demonstrate that they possess the financial resources to allow them to study without the need to engage in unauthorized employment.

In order to make the visa application you will need to present the following at the US Consulate:

- the DS-2019 Form
- your passport
- the necessary visa fee (which varies from location to location)
- receipt for payment of the SEVIS Fee
- Form OF-156 Application for a Nonimmigrant Visa
- evidence of financial support

Unless there are unusual circumstances, the visa will generally be issued on the day the application is submitted, or only a few days afterward.