

SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL

SSFS I-20 Resource Page for New International Families

What is an I-20?

An I-20 is a document issued by the school to a newly enrolled family to support a F-1 visa. It is issued by a SEVP approved school that certifies the student is enrolled in a full-time program and the dates of attendance.

Which Visa do I need?

F-1 visas are non-immigrant student visas that allow non-US citizens to pursue an education in the United States full time at an approved school.

How do I apply for a visa?

Once you receive the I-20 document, you must pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee. The I-901 SEVIS Fee is mandatory and must be paid before you enter the United States. Next you can apply for a F-1 visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. In most cases, you can apply online and schedule your visa interview. Once approved, you can enter the United States up to 30 days before the start of school.

How much does a visa cost?

There are two fees associated with applying for an F-1 visa. The visa fee is usually around \$160 USD. The I-901 SEVIS fee is \$350 USD. These fees are paid to the US government, not the school.

What if I am denied?

You can re-apply for your visa. Typically, you will be given reasons for the denial and can rectify before reapplying.

Resources:

SSFS strongly recommends using official United States government websites for the most up to date and accurate resources. Please print and keep copies of all payments and applications.

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>