

## Visa Application & Interview Process

Now that you have been admitted to Western New England University, you must begin considering your immigration requirements. If you are currently outside of the U.S. and do NOT have a U.S. student visa (or your visa has expired), you will need to apply for one. Below are the steps most commonly used during the visa application and interview process.

F-1 Students can also view our Applying for A Visa video series [here](#). The process for J-1 students/scholars will be similar so this video series can be helpful for you as well.

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### Application Process

1. Make an appointment with your local U.S. embassy or consulate to apply for your visa.
  - a. Please note that each consulate may require different (or additional forms) than what is listed below. Check each consulate's website when making your appointment to determine what additional forms may be needed.
  - b. You may schedule your interview at any U.S. Embassy or Consulate but it is usually best to schedule it in your home country.
  - c. [Apply for a U.S. Visa](#)
2. **Complete the following forms:**

You may apply online at:

  - (a) [DS-160 Non-immigrant Visa Application Form](#) (can be completed online as well)  
\*Additional forms may be required
  - (b) If your I-20 or DS-

1. When you receive the I-20 or DS-2019 you will be registered with SEVIS. You will be assigned a SEVIS number and are required to pay the [SEVIS fee](#).
2. When you enter the U.S., you will need to provide the Port of Entry Officer:
  - a. Proof of identity and citizenship (your Canadian passport)
  - b. The original I-20 (or DS-2019)
  - c. Proof that you have paid your [SEVIS fee](#)
  - d. Proof that you have the funds to pay for the school that you plan to attend
  - e. Proof of your ties to Canada

**Students from Bermuda:** Citizens of Bermuda do not need visas to study in the U.S but you need to obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 from Western New England and pay the [SEVIS fee](#).

1. When you receive the I-20 or DS-2019 you will be registered with SEVIS. You will be assigned a SEVIS number and are required to pay the [SEVIS fee](#).
2. When you enter the U.S., you will need to provide the Port of Entry Officer:
  - a. Proof of identity and citizenship (your Bermuda passport)
  - b. The original I-20 (or DS-2019)
  - c. Proof that you have paid your SEVIS fee
  - d. Proof that you have the funds to pay for the school that you plan to attend
  - e. Proof of your ties to Bermuda
  - f. If



- e. What are you doing after you complete your program?
  - i. See #4 but also explain your intent. It is ok to say you want to earn your Western New England University degree and participate in OPT, but what is your plan after that? The F-1 and J-1 visa is a non-intent visa meaning your intention is to return to your home country after you finish your program and OPT. Saying your long-term goal is to remain in the U.S. to work after OPT, can harm your chances of getting a visa because then your intent is to remain. The number one reason for denials is failure to demonstrate your intent to return home.
6. Ink-free, digital fingerprint scans will be taken as part of your application process. They are usually taken during your interview, but this varies based on location.

### **After: Approval or Denial**

1. If the interviewer approves your application, you will know immediately. The officer will say "Your visa is approved" or something similar.
2. If your visa is denied or put on hold, you will be informed accordingly. You will be given a denial letter with the reason you were denied.
  - a. If put on hold (called Administrative Processing), the average time to wait is 60 days. This typically occurs when your name has been flagged for similarity to another person or they need to do additional security checks.

**NOTE:** Students/Scholars wanting to enter the U.S. on another visa should confirm that they can legally study or research using that visa before entering the United States. Please be advised that if you enter on a B visa, you will NOT be able to pursue a course of study. Dependents on an F-2 visa will be allowed to engage in part-time study. J-2 dependents have no study restrictions.

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## **Arriving in the US: when, where, how?**

### **When:**

F-1 and J-1 visa holders may not enter the U.S. earlier than 30 days before the start date of the I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) document.

When traveling, always put your documents in your carry-on luggage! If you check your baggage and it is lost or delayed and you lose your documents, you will not be able to enter the U.S.

### **How:**

