

PROCESS WITH THE US EMBASSY AND DIRECTIONS TO OBTAIN THE STUDENT VISA

In order to be able to travel to the United States, all Japanese students need to apply for a student visa (F-1 visa). As soon as the students are admitted to a university and receive the document I-20, they must make an appointment at the American Embassy to conduct a personal interview.

Steps to apply for a student visa:

1. Fill out the DS-160 Form (personal information, university data, etc.)

<https://ceac.state.gov/genniv>

- Before completing the online form, it is necessary to get a passport photo (size: 5cm x 5cm with white background) and scan it, since the form asks to upload a photo.
- Important: Take note of the application ID so that you can save the form and then retrieve it when you want to continue editing it.

2. Pay the SEVIS fee: (\$200 - By credit / debit card)

<https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>

- Click on "Submit Form I-901 and Fee Payment"
- Select "Form I-20" and "OK"
- Fill in the information and click "enter"
- Make sure that the printer is working correctly, as it is necessary to print the payment receipt. If you aren't able to print it well, you cannot go back and you will have to make the payment again. Another option is to save it as a PDF document and print it later.



3. Apply for a visa at the American Embassy of Japan: (160\$ - Debit card)

<https://cgifederal.secure.force.com/?language=English&country=Japan>

- Click on "New User".
- Follow the instructions to create an account and proceed to pay the visa application.

Tips for the day of the interview at the embassy:

Remember that they do not like people who are willing to stay in the US to work, so the goal is to show them that you are going to the US just to study at a university. You should tell them that, after graduation, you want to return to your country to work and to continue your life close to your family. Studying a degree in the US will be very beneficial for you when trying to apply for a job in Japan, since English and studies abroad are getting very important. It is necessary to make this point very clear. If they ask you if your plan is to work in the US during the summer, between course and course, you say no and let them know that you will spend the summers in Japan.

Things to remember:

- At the embassy, you will not be allowed to carry any kind of luggage, backpack, etc., so try to bring just the necessary.
- They will only let you enter at the embassy, no one else. If you go there with someone, they will have to wait outside.



List of documents that you will have to bring with you at the Embassy:

- Valid passport
 - Original I-20
 - Photo 5x5cm, white background
 - Letter from the Bank and / or Financial Documents
 - Payment Receipt of the interview request
 - SEVIS payment receipt
 - DS-160 Form
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For more information, please visit the official websites of the American Embassy in Japan:

<https://jp.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/>

and

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/jp/index.html>

and

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/jp/jp-niv-visaapply.asp>

