

**St. Norbert College  
ESL Institute  
De Pere, Wisconsin, USA**

**Suggestions for obtaining your F-1 student visa:**

**Step 1: Apply for admission to the school**

Send your application for admission to the school along with financial information and high school grades and other documents. If you are accepted at the school, the school will send you immigration form "I-20" and a letter of admission. Now you can prepare for your visa interview.

**Step 2: Pay the SEVIS fee and print the receipt:**

The easiest way to complete form I-901 and pay the SEVIS fee is with a credit card. Go to <<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>> to pay online or to find out information about other ways to pay the fee. Print the receipt for SEVIS I-901 fee.

**Step 3: Pay the visa application fee at your local US embassy:**

Usually this is \$100 (Form DS-156)

**Step 4: Make an appointment at the U.S. embassy or consulate:**

**Step 5: Prepare for the interview:**

1. Consider the interview a formal event: Business clothes are appropriate
2. Bring these documents to the interview:
  - a. Immigration form I-20 from the school
  - b. Letter of admission from the school
  - c. SEVIS I-901 receipt for payment of SEVIS fee
  - d. Financial documents; for example, parents or sponsor bankbook or financial statements
  - e. DS-156 form (from the local U.S. embassy web site)
  - f. DS-157 form (*Males only, ages 16-45*)
  - g. DS-158 (check to see if this is required at the local U.S. embassy in your country)

**Step 6: Prepare for interview questions:**

If your English is not very good, you can ask to speak in your native language. Be prepared to show evidence that you have very good reasons to return home after you finish your studies.

- a. Be clear and specific, but **do not memorize a speech**. The officers want you to be honest
- b. Do not be shy. Keep eye-contact with the visa officer. If you do not understand the question, say so. It is okay to ask the officer to repeat the question
- b. Take evidence that you plan to return home after your studies in the U.S., for example:
  - A letter from your school saying you are registered to continue your studies
  - A letter from someone in a government or business who plans to offer you a job when you return
  - Documents that show land ownership or a family business

- c. If a brother or sister studied in the U.S. and then returned home, bring a copy of their diploma and a letter from their employer.
- d. If possible, bring a letter from a business stating that you will have a job when you return and that English will be useful for your future employment with the company.
- e. If family members have important positions in government, education, or business, you can bring documents showing their position.
- f. You should be ready to discuss your plans for the future. Be prepared to answer these two questions:
  - Why do you need to go to the United States to study English?
  - Why did you choose to go to school at St. Norbert College?

### **Entering the U.S. in F-1 Status:**

1. After you have your student visa, check it to verify all the information is correct, for example, the spelling of your name and your date of birth. Also verify that they have given you the correct visa classification (F-1).
2. When you travel, you should carry your immigration documents on your person ≠ do not put them in your luggage! You will need to show them to the immigration officer. Here are the documents you should carry with you:
  - a. Your passport
  - b. Your I-20
  - c. Your evidence of financial resources
  - d. I-94 Arrival-Departure form
2. If you are traveling by air, the flight attendant will give you a Customs Declaration Form and an **I-94 Arrival-Departure form**. You must fill this out to give it to the immigration officer when you arrive. If you do not understand the form, ask the flight attendant for assistance.
3. Upon arrival, proceed to the area for entry inspection by the Department of Homeland Security (immigration). Have ready your passport, I-20, I-94 form, and Customs Declaration form (CF-6059).
4. You will be asked to state the reason you are entering the U.S. It is important that you tell the officer that you will be a student.
5. All visitors holding non-immigrant visas will be photographed digitally and have an index finger scan. If the Homeland Security officer wants to verify your admission in the ESL Institute at St. Norbert College, he or she can call the ESL Director at:
  - Home: 920-339-9376 (evenings and weekends).
  - Office: 920-403-3125 or 920-403-3463

***We look forward to welcoming you!***