

FAQs VISA

- **When do I need to apply for my student visa ?**

It is advised to start the process as soon as possible. This way one can provide ample time for the processing of the visa.

The whole process takes 120 days or less. Make sure you get your visa before class starts. You can enter the US, according to the Homeland Security, 30 days or less before your official inscription date. If you want to enter the US earlier you need to obtain a visitors visa.

- **What is SEVIS and SEVP ? What should you know about it ?**

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is a tool of the Department of Homeland Security to better monitor exchange programs. Your student information is collected in the so called Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

All student applicants must have a SEVIS generated I-20 issued by an educational institution approved by DHS, which they submit when they are applying for their student visa. Your school is responsible for entering your information for the I-20 student visa form into SEVIS. The consular officer will need to verify your I-20 record electronically through the SEVIS system in order to process your student visa application. Unless otherwise exempt, all F-1 or M-1 principal applicants must pay a SEVIS I-901 fee to the DHS for each individual program. See the [SEVP Fact Sheet](#) for a fee list. See [SEVIS-901 Fee](#) for further information on how to pay the fee.

- **What are the required Visa Fees ?**

Nonimmigrant visa application processing fee - For current fees for Department of State government services select [Fees](#). You will need to provide a receipt showing the visa application processing fee has been paid, when you come for your visa interview. 140 \$.

- **Visa issuance fee** – For German students there is no additional fee.

- **How long may I stay on my student visa ?**

When you enter the United States on a student visa, you will usually be admitted for the duration of your student status. That means you may stay as long as you are a full time student, even if the F-1 visa in your passport expires while you are in the United States. For a student who has completed the course of studies shown on the I-20, and any authorized practical training, the student is allowed the following additional time in the U.S. before departure:

- F-1 student - An additional 60 days, to prepare for departure from the U.S. or to transfer to another school.
- M-1 student - An additional 30 days to depart the U.S. (Fixed time period, in total not to exceed one year). The 30 days to prepare for departure is permitted as long as the student maintained a full course of study and maintained status. An M student may receive extensions up to three years for the total program.