



F-1 Visa Application Instructions:

Applying for a Visa from Outside the USA

1. Submit the [Visa Information Form for Degree Students](#). Login with your Cal Poly email and password.
2. Verify that your passport will be valid at least six (6) months past your arrival date. It must remain valid at all times while outside of your home country.
3. When we have received all necessary information and documents we should be able to issue your I-20 with your acceptance letter within two weeks. When you receive it, review the I-20 form for accuracy. If there are any errors, notify the [International Students and Scholars](#) staff immediately. Do not pay the SEVIS fee if there is an error on your form.
4. [Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee](#) online and print a receipt
5. [Apply for a visa](#) at a [United States Embassy or Consulate](#) outside the United States (not required for citizens of Canada)

Special instructions for Canadian citizens: An F-1 visa is not required. Pay the SEVIS (I-901) Fee, then bring your I-20, I-901 receipt, printout of electronic acceptance letter, and proof of funds with you to the U. S. port of entry (step 8).

6. [Prepare for your F-1 visa appointment](#). Schedule and attend your visa interview. Bring your documents with you. You will be interviewed in English. Remain calm and answer questions honestly. Be prepared to talk about your educational program at Cal Poly and your plans when you return to your home country. The interview is normally brief and may be as short as five to ten minutes.
7. Check to be sure that your I-20 is returned with your passport and the information on your visa is correct. Carry your I-20 with you on the plane.
8. Review [Instructions for Entering the USA](#).
9. Review the [New International Students web pages](#) and the International Student Welcome Guide for more important information.

We are here to help you!

Cal Poly International Center
International Students & Scholars