

# Visa Information for study/internship in the USA

**UPDATE:** As of 27 May 2025, the United States is implementing wider background screenings for all international student visa applications. This will result in longer wait times and fewer appointment possibilities. **DO NOT WAIT TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT!!!**

You can do so here: <https://www.usvisaappt.com/visa/page?country=BE&apiPageName=nivTypes&locale=en> ↗ (https://www.usvisaappt.com/visa/page?country=BE&apiPageName=nivTypes&locale=en).

## Applying for a visa to study

**All incoming international students must apply for a student visa to enter the US.**

### Steps to follow:

1. Be nominated for and admitted to the partner institution and follow their instructions
2. Get your DS-2019 (this document comes from the partner institution along with other information needed to apply for your visa)
3. Visit the [Student Visa Page](https://j1visa.state.gov/programs/college-and-university-student/) ↗ (https://j1visa.state.gov/programs/college-and-university-student/) for information on how to set up your visa appointment.
  - ▶ ... Pay the SEVIS fee.
5. Go to the visa appointment (wait times for your application processing may vary)

### Important sites for visa info:

[Student visa information](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html) ↗ (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html) (U.S. Department of State – Embassy in Belgium)

[Student and Exchange Visitor Program | ICE](https://www.ice.gov/sevis) ↗ (https://www.ice.gov/sevis)

[Link to application platform \(new for U.S. Embassy Belgium\)](https://www.usvisaappt.com/visa/country?country=BE) ↗

(<https://www.usvisaappt.com/visa/country?country=BE>)

[Direct link to application process](https://www.usvisaappt.com/visa/page?country=BE&apiPageName=nonImmigrantVisaProc&locale=en) ↗ (<https://www.usvisaappt.com/visa/page?country=BE&apiPageName=nonImmigrantVisaProc&locale=en>)

[Direct link to schedule appointment \(create account / log-in\)](https://www.usvisaappt.com/visaapplicantui/login) ↗

(<https://www.usvisaappt.com/visaapplicantui/login>)

**Tips for applying for your visa:** <https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/10-points-remember-when-applying-student-visa> ↗ (<https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/10-points-remember-when-applying-student-visa>)

**Applying for a visa to intern:**

**NOTE: In the USA students do internships (not traineeships).**

Students wishing to do their internship in the USA must use a sponsor organization to support their application. You will find more information about the process of finding an internship, choosing a sponsor organization and the J-1 visa application process for interns here: [LEHO - Internships in the USA](https://leho-howest.instructure.com/courses/4161/pages/internships-in-the-usa) (<https://leho-howest.instructure.com/courses/4161/pages/internships-in-the-usa>)