

# Application of US VISA

(Updated 29th May 2021)

Congratulations on receiving and accepting your offer of admission to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign! After accepting your offer, UIUC will send you the I-20 form, or the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student for your application of US Visa.

We have compiled a list of details to take note of during your application for a US Visa. Some of these rules and procedures may have changed. If you are unsure about the details at any point during the application, check out the [US Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) or [the US Travel Docs website](#) for more information.

There are 3 types of visa for studying in the US: F-1, M-1 and J-1. You only need to be concerned with F-1 or J-1.

- a. F-1, or non-immigrant student visa: This visa is for international students who want to study at an accredited US college or university.
- b. J-1, or exchange visitor: This visa is for people who will be participating in a foreign exchange program in the US. Study in the US is usually for a short period of time of only one or two semesters. The school will issue a DS-2019 form instead of the I-20. You will need this in order to apply for a J-1 visa.

The I-20 and DS-2019 are official U.S. Government forms, issued by the school, which a prospective nonimmigrant student must have in order to get a visa. These forms act as proof-of-acceptance and contain the information necessary to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee, apply for a visa or change visa status, and be admitted into the United States. [More information here](#).


**Note:** Before proceeding with the application, check that your passport expires **at least 6 months** after the Program End date stated on your I-20/DS-2019. This should be at least December 2025 for full time students joining Fall 2021. If your passport expires before that, either:

1. Renew your passport before beginning the visa application process (recommended if you have time to spare i.e., May/early June). This way you can use your new passport number when applying for the visa. The US embassy does not transfer your visa stamp to a different passport, so doing this step avoids having to carry two passports.
2. Purchase a return flight ticket that is at least 6 months before your passport's expiration date. This will be your proof that you intend to return to Singapore to renew your passport before it expires. Once you obtain your renewed passport, you will need to carry both the new passport **as well as the passport containing your visa stamp** when you travel in and out of the US.

# Application Process

1. On your I-20 / DS-2019 forms, check for the accuracy of all your personal and college information. Sign the field under **STUDENT ATTESTATION**.
2. Go to the [I-901 Website](#) to pay for the SEVIS fee of US\$350 (F1) or \$220 (J1). There isn't a need to pay \$35 for the express delivery of the official SEVIS receipt (I-797), unless you are at this stage in July/August. Print the SEVIS receipt and keep it carefully.
3. You will have to pay the MRV fee (US\$160 as of May 2021). Check the [US Travel Docs website](#) for payment information. We recommend the SAM Web option as it can be done online.

All payment options will ask for a CGI reference number. To get one, go to the [Deposit Slips](#) section and click **ONCE** on the first link "*Deposit Slip - \$160 MRV Fee*". Clicking on this link will take you to a randomly generated PDF document with your CGI reference number (example picture below, *please do not use it*). **Download, save and print** this document as there is no other way to regenerate a document with the same reference number a 2nd time. You will be using this number throughout the application process, so keep it safe and to yourself. This document also states how much you will need to pay in local currency.

Cash Deposit Instructions	
<b>Exact Deposit Amount in Singapore Dollars:</b>	SGD 224.00
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	<b>03/06/2021</b>
<b>Your Personal CGI Reference Number:</b>	73019802838459
<b>Reference Number Barcode:</b>	 US73019802838459 224.00
<b>Instructions for Singapore Post Branches:</b>	
the above expiration date has not passed. In case the deposit slip has expired, please DO NOT ant to the website <a href="http://www.ustraveldocs.com/">http://www.ustraveldocs.com/</a> to create a new deposit slip. In the field p	

Do note that it takes **1 business day** for your payment to be reflected in the interview appointment registration portal, so do not be surprised if you are not able to schedule one immediately after payment.

4. Fill up the [DS-160 form](#). This is by far the most detailed declaration that you've to make, and I'm listing information you should have on hand before starting. The system tends to log you out randomly, so do it only when you have the information on hand and about an hour of free time. Note your ID so that you can resume if you get logged out. When you're done, **print the confirmation slip with your Applicant ID and keep it**.

- SEVIS Identification Number
- Name, email and telephone number of school official
- Address of your college and JC/Secondary school
- Name, address of places you have worked, including the name of your immediate supervisor
- Purpose of Trip is Academic
- Your expected date of arrival and departure to/from U.S. (that's xx/xx/2021, xx/xx/2025 for F-1 applicants)
  - Note that you can't stay in the US on an F-1 visa longer than 3 months after the program end date stated on your I-20 without confirmed work authorization (OPT). So even if you do intend to work in the US, your expected departure date should still be within 3 months of the end date.
  - If your passport expires 6 months before the program end date stated on your I-20/DS-2019, your expected departure date should be the date of your return trip. This will imply that you intend to return to Singapore to renew your passport.
- All your passport information (including places traveled in the last 5 years and any visits to the US in the last 10 years)
- Name, email, phone number and address of two contacts who can verify your visa application details. This can be your school higher education counselor and/or your workplace supervisor and/or your friend.
- Name and details of close relatives living in the U.S. (immediate family)
- For employment, if you are not actively working you should indicate that you are unemployed. For a reason, you may state that you are waiting to begin your studies at a college this fall.
- You are considered to be travelling alone if you're part of an organised group with fellow pre-frosh leaving for college together.

5. Schedule a visa appointment (it may take up to a week or two). Schedule [your appointment here](https://cgifederal.secure.force.com/) (https://cgifederal.secure.force.com/). You will need to create a new account, enter your profile information and go through a few simple questions. You need your SEVIS number, your DS-160 confirmation number and the MRV receipt number, which is the UID number (the eight digits printed in bold).

Once completed, you will get an appointment confirmation receipt. Print that out.

Be sure to make an early appointment to avoid the wait. Every single person ahead of you may take up to 20 minutes each.

6. The U.S. Embassy is located at 27 Napier Road, near Tanglin. For your visa interview, ensure that you have:

- A Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application or Confirmation (DS-160) Form.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States. **For most of us this should be at least Dec 2025. Bring your OLD passports as well.**
  - If your passport expires 6 months before the program end date stated on your I-20/DS-2019, bring proof of your intention to return to Singapore at least 6 months prior to your passport's expiry for renewal. This can be in the form of a return flight ticket.

- One (1) 2x2 (inches) photograph. This is a different size from your passport photo. [More information here.](#)
  - Do note that this photo must be **less than 6 months old**. You can get it taken at your time, or use the photo booth in the embassy when you go for your interview. If you want to crop and use your passport photo, please make sure your passport is less than 6 months old or they will ask you to take one on-site.
- A receipt showing payment of the non-refundable nonimmigrant visa application processing fee (the MRV fee) of US\$160, paid in local currency.
- Approved I-20 from your U.S. school or program. Signed.
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt indicating the SEVIS fee has been paid.
- Letter of Admission from your college.
- Proof of Financial Support
- Academic transcripts ('A' Levels, IB, SATs etc).
- **(Specific to Fall 21 applicants)** A printout of your registered classes for Fall 2021 with their locations (example picture below). This will serve as proof of in-person instruction, which you need in order to be eligible for an F-1/J-1 Visa as of May 29th 2021.
  - Can be obtained from Self-service -> Registration & Records -> Enhanced Registration -> View Class Schedules -> Fall 2021 -> Print Icon
  - You may also print [this letter from ISSS addressing UIUC's hybrid instruction plan](#). This should be a supplement to your class schedule printout, not a replacement.

#### Univ of Il at Urbana-Champaign

#### ██████████ Fall 2021 - Urbana-Champaign Schedule

Classification: Junior Level: Undergrad - Urbana-Champaign  
 College: Grainger Engineering Major: Computer Science  
 Department: Computer Science

Title	Course Details	Credit Hours	CRN	Meeting Times
Prob & ██████████	██████████	3.0	██████████	08/23/2021 - 12/08/2021 Wednesday, Friday 12:30 PM - 01:45 PM Urbana-Champaign, Engineering Sciences Building, 190 Liu, Hongye
Prob & ██████████	██████████	0.0	██████████	08/23/2021 - 12/08/2021 Monday 03:00 PM - 03:50 PM Urbana-Champaign, Digital Computer Laboratory, 1310 Liu, Hongye
Intro to AI ██████████	██████████	4.0	██████████	08/23/2021 - 12/08/2021 Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Urbana-Champaign, Electrical & Computer Eng Bldg, 1002 Erickson, Jeff Khurana, Dakshita
Intro to AI ██████████	██████████	0.0	██████████	08/23/2021 - 12/08/2021 Wednesday, Friday 03:00 PM - 03:50 PM Urbana-Champaign, Siebel Center for Comp Sci, 1302

Locations of classes.

This will be your proof of in-person classes.

On the day of the interview, reach the embassy at the time stated on your appointment slip. Go queue under the blue tent (on the left of the entrance). After a long while, you'd clear the security and enter the embassy proper. You'd go through one counter and your visa appointment slip will be checked. After that, you'd go into a huge room with many counters. Take a number for your queue. At the first counter that calls you, you need to present all your documents and the officer will keep those for checking. You go back and wait... for a long while, before a second counter calls you for fingerprinting. You go back and wait again, before the last counter calls you, asks a few questions, and returns the rest of the documents not

required for visa printing. The officer at the counter will keep your current passport, I-20, and SEVIS receipt. "Your visa is approved!" is what you will hear if your application is successful. You may leave the embassy after that.

7. A sample of possible interview questions:

- Why do you want to study abroad?
- Why do you want to go to the USA?
- Is it necessary to study abroad?
- Why have you chosen this university?
- What is special about this university?
- Why do you want to study this course?
- What are you going to study in this course?
- Isn't this course available in your own country? If yes, why do you want to study this course abroad?
- Who will pay for your living and studies in the USA?
- Do you have enough funds to study in the USA?
- What is your source of income?
- Is your fund enough to study in the USA?
- What does your father do?
- Don't you intend to work in the USA? (Answer should be no, or not sure)
- What will you do after completion of your studies in the USA?
- How can you assure me that you'll return back after your studies in the USA?
- What would you do if you fell in love in the USA?
- Who lives with you in your family?
- Has anybody from your family gone abroad?

8. You'd get back your passport by the third working day. There will be this visa sticker on your passport. Visa Type/Class should be R/F1 and the expiry date of the visa should be after your course end date. You should get back your SEVIS receipt and your I-20.

Congratulations! You're done with the visa application. Time to think about immunizations, health insurance, setting up a US bank account and getting your air tickets.

More details on the different types of immunizations can be found on the next page.

# Immunization Information

For a typical Singaporean:

Immunization against:

- MMR:
  1. 1-2 years (age): Primary Course.
  2. 11-12 years: 1st Booster (Primary 6)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus:
  1. 3 Months: 1st Dose
  2. 4 Months: 2nd Dose
  3. 5 Months: 3rd Dose
  4. 18 Months: 1st Booster
  5. 6 years: 2nd Booster
  6. 12 years: 3rd Booster
- Poliomyelitis
  1. Timeline same as that of Diphtheria
- Hepatitis B
  1. At Birth : 1st Dose
  2. 1 Month: 2nd Dose
  3. 6 Month: 3rd Dose
  4. 1 Year: Booster for children with HEPB Mother only
- Tuberculosis
  1. At Birth: 1st Dose
  2. 6 Years: If no previous vaccination
  3. 12 Years: Booster for all Mantoux non-reactors
  4. 16 Years: Booster for all Mantoux non-reactors, except those with 2 BCG (Vaccine name) scars

Please check your personal health booklet (page 79 -81, and attachments)

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Kindly call the immunization clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital **Travelers' Health and Vaccination Clinic (THVC)** @ 63572222 if you have further enquiries. If you are missing certain immunizations, you can either:

1. Get them done in Singapore before submitting your immunization records to MyMckinley.

2. (Recommended) Submit your most updated immunization records (signed by a doctor) to MyMckinley. McKinley healthcare will send you an email with a list of immunizations that you will need to take within your first semester in UIUC. You can get them done either at McKinley health center or Walgreens. This option is recommended because you can use the school's health insurance plan to get these vaccinations for free.