

Application Process for Student Visa

1) Student gains admission to school and submits evidence of adequate funding for proposed program of study.

2) Designated School Official verifies funding, then enters visa certification information into SEVIS website. SEVIS provides the school with the visa certification form in pdf format, which school prints locally and mails to student.

3) Student makes appointment to visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Prior to appointment, student pays visa fee and gets paper receipt.

4) To begin consideration of an application for a student visa, the Consular Official accesses a consular version of the SEVIS database to verify that the visa certification information was entered by the school. The consulate also checks various other governmental databases. These checks may require several weeks or months to complete. During this time, the student and school are both uncertain of the outcome.

Almost everyone is subject to background check of various police and/or governmental agencies

Additional checks also required for fields of study on Technology Alert List

Additional checks are required for students from certain countries, especially Russia and China

5) An interview is required, during which the consular official:
Compares funding on visa certification form with student's proof of funding
Considers academic and linguistic preparation
Considers whether applicant is legitimate student or intended immigrant

6) If visa is granted in time for start of classes, student enters US to enroll at US school

7) Immigration officials access SEVIS database at port of entry record arrival information.