

Steps to Obtain an Initial Student Study Visa

1. Applicants for a student visa must provide the following documents when they go to the Embassy for the interview:

- A. Form I-20 or DS-2019. (include your welcome letter from Fort Hays State University)
- B. Completed DS-158 and DS-156 non-immigrant visa application with a photo. (forms available at the Embassy)
- C. Passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond your expected stay in the US.
- D. Receipt for the visa processing fee. (SEVIS fee)
- E. Financial documents (such as bank account statements, tax documents) that show you have sufficient funds (money) to cover tuition and living expenses during your time in the US. The Embassy official might need evidence that there are no restrictions on the transfer of funds that would prevent the funds from being available during the projected stay.
- F. Proof of your relationship to your spouse and children if you are married and/or have children.

2. Embassy officials may also want to see:

A. Evidence that you have strong economic, social, family, or career ties to your home country. Applicants for an F-1 or J-1 student visa or any non-immigrant visa must convince the official that:

- 1. You have a residence in your home country.
- 2. You intend to return to that residence.
- 3. You intend to leave the US when your course of study is completed.

B. Other requested documents the official may want to see are transcripts, diplomas, standardized test scores. (TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, GMAT, etc.)

3. How to prepare for your visa interview:

- A. Listen carefully to the questions the Embassy official might ask you.
- B. The official may ask you a question that you think is strange, you must answer it. The official is trying to decide whether you intend to stay in the

US after you have completed your program. If the official thinks you plan to stay in the US, he or she must refuse your visa. Remember, the student visa is for people who intend to return to their home country. Tell the official when you are planning to go home.

C. Prepare reasons why you want to study in English in the US.
(Examples may be: professional development, learning English more quickly and efficiently, first-hand knowledge of the American culture and interaction with many native speakers)

D. Do not tell the immigration official you want to go to the US because:

1. Your friends are there.
2. You have family in the US.
3. You like American movies.

E. Remember that an immigration official sees as many as 200 people a day. Officials do not have a lot of time to discuss your application or look through all your paperwork; they must make a quick decision. Help them by being completely prepared.