

US F-1 Student Visa — Document Checklist

The F-1 visa is for full-time study in the USA. You need a Form I-20 from your university, the SEVIS I-901 fee paid, a DS-160 and an in-person interview (the interview waiver is no longer available for F-1 applicants). Since June 2025, F, M and J applicants must list every social-media handle used in the last 5 years on the DS-160 and set those profiles to public. The interview focuses on your course choice, funding and plans after graduation.

Last reviewed: October 2026

Tick each box as you put the document in your file. **Required** = asked for in the official instructions. **Supporting** = carry if it applies to you; the officer may ask for it.

Required for the appointments

☐	Valid passport Valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended stay, with a blank page for the visa.	REQUIRED
☐	Old passports Bring every previous passport, especially any with earlier US visas.	SUPPORTING
☐	DS-160 confirmation page Printed page with the barcode. Name, date of birth and passport number must match your passport exactly.	REQUIRED
☐	Appointment confirmation letter Print it for both appointments — the VAC (biometrics/OFC) and the consular interview. Check it for any extra instructions; the letter overrides general guides.	REQUIRED
☐	Form I-20 (signed) Signed by you and your school's DSO. Details must match your passport.	REQUIRED
☐	SEVIS I-901 fee paid Pay at fmjfee.com at least 3 business days before the interview; carry the payment confirmation.	REQUIRED
☐	Social-media profiles set to public All handles from the last 5 years, as listed on your DS-160.	REQUIRED

Usually not needed — carry just in case

☐	Visa fee (MRV) payment receipt Not normally needed at the counter — the fee is already linked to your booking. Keep the receipt number for your records and for rescheduling.	SUPPORTING
☐	Printed photograph Only if your DS-160 photo upload failed or the appointment letter asks for one: 2 x 2 in (51 x 51 mm), white background, taken in the last 6 months, no glasses. A photo is also captured at the VAC.	SUPPORTING

Supporting: academics (strongly recommended)

☐	University admission / offer letter	SUPPORTING
☐	10th, 12th and degree marksheets & certificates Originals.	SUPPORTING
☐	Test scores GRE / GMAT / SAT and TOEFL / IELTS / Duolingo — whatever you submitted.	SUPPORTING
☐	Copy of your SOP & resume Officers sometimes ask about them.	SUPPORTING

Supporting: funding (strongly recommended)

☐	Proof of funds for the first year Bank statements, FDs and/or education loan sanction letter covering the I-20 amount.	SUPPORTING
☐	Sponsor's ITR (2–3 years) and income proof Usually parents.	SUPPORTING
☐	Scholarship / assistantship letter If awarded.	SUPPORTING

Tips before you submit

- Know your I-20 amount, tuition fee and living costs by heart.
- Speak in your own words — memorised answers sound rehearsed and officers notice.
- Be specific about your course, not just the university's ranking.
- Carry original academic documents, but answer first; documents are secondary.

Need an earlier appointment date? Get instant Telegram slot alerts and appointment help at www.earlyvisaslots.in