

Student Visa Application Guide

Nonresident immigrants are required to obtain a visa before they are permitted to take classes in the US. There are many types of visas, but only certain classifications allow non-resident immigrants to participate in academic courses. You will be issued a form I20 when Sacred Heart certifies that you meet the criteria for an F1 student visa. Once you have received an I20 you may begin your visa application. This guide will help you, both in the application process and with preparing for your visa interview.

THE VISA APPLICATION

- You will be emailed an I20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.
- Print, sign and date your I20 when it arrives.
- Be sure to list the actual date that you sign your I20, not the date it was printed and signed by Sacred Heart.
- The US government charges a fee for the form I20. Sacred Heart will issue this payment for you. You will receive an email notification of this payment as well as a form I901. Form I901 is a Payment Confirmation.
- Complete the [DS 160, an Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application](https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/). You may access an application here: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>.
- You may be charged a fee to submit your visa application.

SCHEDULE YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

After submitting a visa application, you may contact your US embassy to schedule a visa interview. You will need your SEVIS number and payment confirmation number. The SEVIS Number begins with the letter “N”, found on upper right corner of I20. It is also listed in the middle of the I901. The CCC number is in the first full line of text on the I901. It is also listed in the first box on the I901.

TO PREPARE FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

- Familiarize yourself with all of the documents in your visa packet.
- Know the name and contact information for your financial sponsor.
- Know the full name of the seminary, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, in Hales Corners, Wisconsin.
- Be prepared to provide a reason for traveling to the US.
- Know the name, start and end date of your program.
- Have the address of where you will stay while in the USA.
- Collect and bring documents that show ties to your home country:
 - Driver license, vehicle registration and insurance if applicable.
 - Letters of support from your sponsor, parish or order.

- Bank statements from the past 3 months.
- A letter about any service or leadership ministry you are involved in.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR INTERVIEW

Relax. You have the required documents and you are prepared. Do not over dress. Business casual is acceptable. No need for a suit or tie. If you are not asked for a specific document, don't offer it. Provide documentation as asked or as needed to answer questions.

The F-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa for students. You will not be approved if you intend to stay in the USA. Let the interviewer know that you plan to return to your home country. If asked, explain why you want to come to the USA.

Some suggested areas to discuss are:

1. Your need for English in your vocation.
2. The Catholic Church's global mission.
3. How an international formation experience will help you serve the Catholic Church.

Please contact Sacred Heart if you have any questions. Our International Student Services Specialist is able to help you as needed. Contact her at LBates@SHSST.edu. Another very good resource is <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>.