

Applying for Your U.S. Visa



Congratulations on your admission to Yale! OISS will begin processing the visa documents for newly admitted students after we have confirmation of your admission from your school. The steps listed below are for students who are outside the U.S. and will be applying for a F-1 or J-1 student visa to attend Yale.

If you have any questions, please [contact your designated OISS adviser](#) [1].

Yale College students should contact their designated OISS adviser, [Daniel Riecker](#) [2].

Important Note:

Do not book a flight until you have your visa in hand.

Preliminary Steps

[1. Submit Your Financial Certification](#)

Professional School students will submit financial documents directly to their school. Please reach out to your school contact or Admissions Office for more information.

GSAS Masters students should go to the [Application Status Portal](#) [3] to submit their Financial Certification form and supporting documents. The form will be available on your Application Status Portal only after you accept an offer of admission.

Yale College students are not required to complete the financial certification form. You will instead upload evidence of funding for your first year at Yale to the New Student Survey (see next section).

Deadlines

Each school will have a deadline to submit documents, and your immigration document cannot be issued until you do, so be sure that you complete this step.

[2. Submit Your New Student Survey & Receive Your Immigration Document](#)

3 to 5 days after accepting your offer of admission, you will receive an email from OISS with a link to an online survey (the New Student Survey). We begin this process in mid to late March. With hundreds of documents to issue, completing the online survey as soon as possible helps ensure that you receive your immigration document (an I-20 for F visa or DS-2019 for J visa) in good time.

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After receiving your information and all required supporting documentation, OISS will issue your immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019). This generally takes 7 to 10 business days. Your immigration document will be emailed to you unless an original is required.

OISS will contact you if any more information or documents are needed before we can issue your I-20/DS-2019.

[3. Review & Sign Your Immigration Document](#)

Thoroughly review your I-20 or DS-2019 to make sure all of the information is correct. Sign the form at the bottom of page 1. If you have any questions, please [contact your OISS adviser](#) [1].

[4. Pay the SEVIS Fee](#)

All new students coming in F-1 or J-1 status must pay a one-time SEVIS fee prior to applying for their visa. [Learn more about paying your SEVIS fee](#) [4]. You must do so before you attend your visa interview.

Apply for Your Visa



Special Note For Canadians:

You do not need to apply for a U.S. visa. [Learn about what you will need here](#) [5].

Once you have your SEVIS number, you can start the visa application by completing the DS-160 online application and scheduling an appointment at the embassy or consulate. Follow the links below to learn more.

Next Steps

Follow the instructions below depending on your visa type.

Hub Page View: [_____](#)

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Applying for the F-1 Student Visa

[Next steps to apply for the F-1 Student Visa.](#)

[6]



Applying for the J-1 Student Visa

[Next steps to apply for the J-1 Student Visa.](#)

[7]



F-1 & J-1 Comparison

[Read a brief overview of the the F-1 and J-1 visas, as well as a comparison of the two statuses.](#)

[8]



Visa Appointment Wait Times

[Review the current wait times for getting a visa appointment at an American embassy in your country.](#)

[9]

Source URL: <https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/applying-for-your-us-visa>

Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss> [2] <https://oiss.yale.edu/user/24251> [3] <https://apply.grad.yale.edu/apply/status> [4] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/applying-for-a-visa/paying-the-sevis-fee> [5] <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-students/visas/for-canadian-citizens> [6] <https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/applying-for-your-us-visa/applying-for-the-f-1-student-visa> [7] <https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/applying-for-your-us-visa/applying-for-the-j-1-student-visa> [8] <https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/applying-for-your-us-visa/f-1-j-1-comparison> [9] <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>