

VISA STEPS

This packet includes your I-20 or DS-2019 form issued by Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU). These items are required in order to apply for an F-1 or J-1 student visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. In order to obtain an F-1 or J-1 student visa, you must also pay the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. Important details regarding the SEVIS fee, and other steps to obtain your student visa are included below.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SEVIS FEE

1	What is the SEVIS Fee?	Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires the collection of a SEVIS fee from international students and exchange visitors attending U.S. universities. The SEVIS Fee does not replace the visa fee and is non-refundable if your visa gets denied. Information is also available at: www.hpu.edu/oiss/new-students/pre-arrival-checklist.html
2	How much is the SEVIS Fee?	The fee is \$350 for students with F-1 (I-20), and \$220 for students with J-1 (DS-2019) visas. For spouses and dependent children (F-2 or J-2) of students or exchange visitors, there is no fee.
3	When do I pay the SEVIS Fee?	Applicants needing a visa to enter the U.S. must first pay the SEVIS fee before going to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate for their visa interview. The fee must be paid at least three business days before the scheduled visa interview.
4	How do I make my SEVIS payment?	Complete the SEVIS I-901 online at www.fmjfee.com using your credit card. You are required to bring your receipt with you to your visa interview. The payment confirmation can be printed from the FMJFEE website (www.fmjfee.com) anytime by clicking on the "Check I-901 Status/Print Payment Confirmation" button.
5	Do certain countries have payment exceptions?	Fees CANNOT be paid by credit card for citizens or people born in the following countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria For more information, please visit www.hpu.edu/OISS

STEPS TO OBTAIN YOUR STUDENT VISA

If you are coming to Honolulu, HI, USA from another country (CANADIAN CITIZENS DO NOT NEED A VISA):

1	Schedule an Appointment	Schedule an appointment at the nearest U.S. Consulate Office or Embassy to apply for an F-1 or J-1 (student) visa after you have paid your SEVIS fee. Ask them to confirm what you will need to bring with you to the visa interview appointment.
2	Gather Documents	Present the following documents when you go to your interview appointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valid Passport - HPU Acceptance Letter - Receipt of SEVIS fee payment - Receipt of visa application fee - Signed original I-20 or original DS-2019 form issued by HPU - Documentary evidence of financial support in the amount indicated on the I-20 form
3	Attend Visa Interview	During the interview, be prepared to answer questions about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why you plan to study in the United States - Why you plan to study at Hawai'i Pacific University - Your plans to return to your home country after completing your studies
4	Post Interview	The visa official will stamp the F-1 or J-1 (student) visa into your passport and return the I-20 or DS-2019 form to you. Please contact HPU to confirm you have received your visa, or let us know if you experienced any difficulty at the visa interview. Please call+ 1-808-356-5299 or email iss@hpu.edu

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

1	<p>When can I enter the United States?</p>	<p>International students can enter the United States within 30 days or less from their intended semester/school start date as printed on your I-20 or DS-2019. If you attempt to enter the U.S. earlier, you may be denied entry and be sent home immediately by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol for additional Information, please contact your nearest United States Embassy/Consulate for clarification.</p>
2	<p>Point of Entry Concerns</p>	<p>Government officials may ask to see three pages of the original I-20 form, even though page 3 is not required. HPU now provides page 3 to avoid any potential problems. If you experience any problems, please contact HPU's Office of International Students and Scholars immediately and tell us the city and information regarding the location where the problem occurred.</p> <p>*Canadian passports, please present your original I-20 with your passport to USCBP.</p>
3	<p>What do I have to do after I arrive in Hawai'i?</p>	<p>Visit the Office of International Students and Scholars at HPU for a MANDATORY immigration documents check-in. It is important that you bring your passport, visa, original I-20, or original DS-2019. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires the school to enter your information in the SEVIS Database within 30 days. This is done to inform SEVIS that you have registered and are in the the United States legally. This will help you to avoid a violation of status</p>
4	<p>Will I be notified of immigration regulation changes?</p>	<p>Be sure that your HPU Pipeline account is activated and that you check and read your emails. This is the ONLY way you will be contacted about immigration regulation changes. You are responsible for maintaining your legal immigration status while in the United States. Make sure to maintain copies of all your immigration paperwork and passport information. HPU does NOT maintain copies.</p>
5	<p>After You Enroll</p>	<p>When entering the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 visa, you must agree to follow the laws pertaining to your visa classification. These regulations set the conditions under which you may stay in the U.S. during your studies. It is your responsibility to know and follow the laws. When you have questions about your visa status, the HPU Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is your best source of information concerning visa regulations and is available to answer your questions. For more information, please visit www.hpu.edu/OISS</p>

If you have any questions regarding your student visa, please contact:

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)
 iss@hpu.edu | Direct: +1-808-356-5299 | www.hpu.edu/OISS



Office of International Students and Scholars