

**Office of International Student Services
Champlain College**

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Congratulations on your admission to Champlain College! International Student Services is your office! Our goal is to help you with any question, concern, or challenge you may have. We can answer questions about visas and immigration, the College in general, academics, adjusting to a new culture, and anything else you want to know!

Please find enclosed with this letter your **Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status – For Academic and Language Students**. **Please print your name, sign, and date it in BLUE INK as soon as possible.**

If you follow the instructions that we have outlined below, you should be successful in getting your student visa and in arriving to the United States without difficulty.

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY GET YOUR F-1 STUDENT VISA

Now that you have been admitted and issued your Form I-20, the next step is to apply for your F-1 student visa.

Here is how you start the visa application process:

1. Pay the U.S. SEVIS I-901 fee and print out the receipt at this link: <https://www.fmjfee.com/index.html#> . You will need to present this receipt at your visa appointment. **This fee is required for ALL international students who want to study in the United States.** If you have more questions about the SEVIS I-901 Fee, we invite you to visit this link: <https://www.fmjfee.com/index.html#>
2. Please visit <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/> and complete the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160). Print out the DS-160 confirmation page (half sheet of paper with barcode) and bring it with you to your visa appointment. **This form is required.**
3. Make an appointment for your visa interview at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your home country with jurisdiction over your place of residence.
4. The embassy/consulate will not issue your visa more than 4 months before your Form I-20's program start date.
5. U.S. government officials require evidence to prove that you qualify for the F-1 visa.

This is what you need to have with you when you go to the visa interview:

1. Original Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status
2. SEVIS I-901 fee receipt
3. DS-160 barcode page (confirmation page with application ID number on it)
4. MRV Fee Receipt
5. Valid passport (valid at least 6 months beyond intended stay)
6. One 2X2 Photograph
7. Original letter of acceptance from Champlain College
8. Original financial documents (less than 6 months old)
9. Official test scores (TOEFL, IELTS, etc)

(Please turn over)

10. Official transcripts and diplomas
11. Proof of ties to your home country

Tips for a successful visa interview:

1. Be brief and answer questions directly.
2. Keep a positive attitude during the interview.
3. Be ready to explain why you want to come to the U.S. to study at Champlain College. For example,
 - a. Why do you want to study in the U.S.?
 - b. Why did you choose Champlain College?
 - c. What career will your studies prepare you for back home?
4. You must convince the consul that you plan to go back home to stay after you complete your studies. **This is the number one reason for visa denial!** Present documents that show you have “ties” to your home country, which will force you to return to your home country. These “ties” are usually social, economic, and/or family.
5. Practice your English. Your interview will be in English. You will be required to speak it and show your English test scores (i.e. TOEFL or IELTS scores).
6. Do not talk about working in the U.S. You must be able to convince the consul that you have the sufficient funds while you are studying and living in the U.S.

Important notes after your visa interview:

- 1) **After your F-1 Student Visa is issued and before you leave the embassy/consulate, please check the visa to make sure that all data on the visa is correct.** Check that your name matches your name in your passport and that it shows that it is an F-1 visa. If these items are incorrect, please ask for them to be fixed at the US Consulate.
- 2) **If your visa is denied, contact us with complete details of what was said and what documents you presented with your application.** Please send us a copy of any written reason for the denial you may have been given. If you were denied based on 214(b) grounds, you did not present enough evidence regarding your “ties” to your home country.
- 3) **DO NOT plan to enter the United States earlier than 30 days before your program start date indicated on your Form I-20.**
- 4) **Do not pack your immigration documents in your suitcase.**