Welcome to UC San Diego: Applying for your U.S. Visa
WELCOME
to UC San Diego!
Presenters

- **Grace Fuller**
  - Manager of International Experience & Engagement
  - International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO)

- **Jessica Boyle**
  - International Student Advisor
  - International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO)
You are in listen-only mode. You can hear us, but we can’t hear you.

Ask questions – Use the Q&A feature to submit questions. You can also contact us at iContact.ucsd.edu

We’re recording. You’ll be able to view this webinar recording at iNewStudentWebinars.ucsd.edu
Accept Your Offer of Admission

• Log into your applicant portal and complete your Enrollment Checklist, including:
  • Accepting your offer of admission
  • Completing the California Residency for Tuition Purposes Questionnaire (if required)
Accept Your Offer of Admission

- 2-3 days later, you will receive an email asking you to create your TritonLink Active Directory and Duo accounts. Creation of your Active Directory will provide you with your UC San Diego PID and email.
Information for Newly Admitted International Undergraduate Students

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**STEP 2: Prepare for Your Arrival to UC San Diego**
Travel arrangements, housing, and completing UCSD health and enrollment requirements.

**STEP 3: Arrival to the U.S. and UC San Diego**
What to expect at Customs, activating your F-1 or J-1 status upon arrival to UC San Diego, and International Student Orientation.
Applying for your U.S. Visa: F-1 and J-1 Students
The Visa Process

01 Request and receive Form I-20 or DS-2019 from ISEO (required for SEVIS Transfer students too!)

02 Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)

03 Attend visa interview

04 Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.

05 Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)

06 Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status
The Visa Process

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06 Request and receive Form I-20 or DS-2019 from ISEO (required for SEVIS Transfer students too!)
Request for your Form I-20 or DS-2019 by submitting the appropriate NEW ADMIT form in iPortal (iPortal.ucsd.edu).

Review instructions at iNewStudent.ucsd.edu under STEP 1.
Schedule your visa interview
Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- AND -

Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee
02 Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- Will include the $185.00 visa fee ("MRV fee")
- USembassy.gov --> Check your local U.S. embassy or consulate's website for specific instructions on applying for a NONIMMIGRANT visa, including payment instructions
02 Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- Prepare required documents/information ahead of time per the instructions on the embassy/consulate's website
- Have your passport and Form I-20 or DS-2019 with you
- Takes approximately 1-2 hours to complete if prepared beforehand
FORM I-20 (F-1)

FORM DS-2019 (J-1)
FORM I-20 (F-1)

FORM DS-2019 (J-1)

SEVIS ID Number

SEVIS ID Number & J-1 Program Number
School Contact Information
Name of the advisor listed on your Form I-20 or DS-2019
858-534-3730
istudents@ucsd.edu

Find this information under STEP 1 at iNewStudent.ucsd.edu
02 Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- Print the confirmation page with the barcode! You will be required to bring a printed copy to your visa interview.
- Following successful submission of your DS-160, you will be able to schedule your visa interview, pending appointment availability.

Print this page!
Schedule your visa appointment

Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee

- Pay at least 3 business days before your visa interview
- Required any time you receive a new SEVIS ID number (open a new F or J record)
- F-1: $350 | J-1: $220
- Print the confirmation receipt page! You will be required to bring a printed copy to your visa interview
ISEO Tip

Citizens of CANADA and BERMUDA

✗ NOT required to apply for a F-1 or J-1 visa stamp

☑ Must still present a valid Form I-20 or DS-2019 to seek entry to the US

☑ Must still pay the SEVIS I-901 fee

For more information visit travel.state.gov and search "Citizens of Canada and Bermuda"
The Visa Process

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2. Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)
3. Attend visa interview
4. Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.
5. Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)
6. Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status
Attend your visa interview
03 Attend your visa interview

What to Bring

- **Passport** valid for at least 6 months after your Program Start Date
- **Form I-20 or DS-2019**, printed and hand-signed
- **DS-160 confirmation page** (with the barcode)
- **Proof of payment**:
  - Visa fee ("MRV fee") if payment was required prior to your interview
  - SEVIS I-901 fee
- **Passport photo** if you were unable to upload as part of your DS-160
- **Proof of funding** documentation
- **Documentation of home country address** (ties to home country)

Adapted from Travel.State.gov, "Student Visa"
Attend your visa interview

What to Bring

Other documents may be required or recommended!

Check the embassy or consulate's website for a complete list of documents you should bring.
Attend your visa interview

What to Expect

• The visa interview goes quickly
• Be brief and maintain a positive attitude
• Be ready to talk – the consular officer expects to have a (short) conversation with you
  o Your major and its connection to long-term career or life goals
  o Your source(s) of funding
  o Your ties to your home country
• Be prepared to have the entire interview conducted in English

Adapted from NAFSA’s "10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa"
Attend your visa interview

Visa Delays

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING

DENIAL
Visa Delays

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING**

- Special security clearance procedure lasting up to 60 days or more
- 221(g) letter indicating visa has been "refused"
- You may be required to submit additional documentation to consulate
- Please contact ISEO if you experience this (iContact.ucsd.edu)

**DENIAL**
Attend your visa interview

Visa Delays

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**DENIAL**
- Rare, but does happen
- In most cases, applicants can reapply
- Please contact ISEO if you experience this (iContact.ucsd.edu)
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2. Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)
3. Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status
4. Attend visa interview
5. Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.
6. Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)
Receive your visa stamp and plan travel to the U.S.
Obtaining your visa stamp

- Consular officer will collect your passport
- 1-2 weeks to produce and affix visa stamp
- Ask them how you can receive your passport back—may be mail or pick-up options
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Obtaining your visa stamp

- Consular officer will collect your passport
- 1-2 weeks to produce and affix visa stamp
- Ask them how you can receive your passport back—may be mail or pick-up options

You now have the documents required to seek entry to the United States! Customs will require:

- Passport valid for at least 6 months after your Program Start Date
- Form I-20 or DS-2019, printed and hand-signed
- F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- Get your visa first!
  - We strongly recommend you wait to purchase travel until after you receive your visa stamp
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- 30-day entry rule
  - F-1 and J-1 students may enter the US no more than 30 days prior to the Program Start Date listed on their Form I-20 or DS-2019
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- 30-day entry rule
  - F-1 students: Look at the Earliest Admission Date field on your Form I-20

FORM I-20 (F-1)
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- 30-day entry rule
  - J-1 students: Look at the "Form Covers Period:" box on your DS-2019 and calculate 30 days prior to the "From:" date (the "From" date is your Program Start Date!)
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- Plan for extra time at your first U.S. Port of Entry
  - We recommend you schedule **2-3 hours** between connecting flights or when crossing a land border, to allow for SEVIS status verification at Customs
Request and receive Form I-20 or DS-2019 from ISEO (via iPortal)

Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)

Attend visa interview

Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.

Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status

Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)
Quick Recap: The Visa Process
The Visa Process

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[LEARN MORE]

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[LEARN MORE]
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Get Engaged
iPrograms

Redefining the world we know with one experience at a time.
Global Ambassador Program (GAP)

- Summer-long peer mentorship program
- Matches incoming international undergraduate students with current UC San Diego undergraduate students

GAP.ucsd.edu
Follow us on Social Media!

UC San Diego International Services and Engagement Office
UC San Diego ISEO
@istudents.ucsd
@ISEOUCED
Additional Resources
IMPORTANT DEADLINES & REMINDERS

**NOW**
- Requesting your Form I-20 or DS-2019 via the iPortal
  - Visit: iPortal.ucsd.edu
  - See instructions at: iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

**NOW**
- Apply for on-campus housing
  - Visit: hdh.ucsd.edu

**Mid-May**
- On-Campus Housing Contracts due
  - Visit: hdh.ucsd.edu

**July 10**
- Deadline to submit health immunization requirements
  - Visit: studenthealth.ucsd.edu

**Sept**
- Tuition due
- Move-In Check-In
- New International Student Orientation
  - Visit: iOrientation.ucsd.edu
Upcoming Pre-Arrival Webinars

- **April 23**: Undergraduate Student Housing
- **April 25**: Student Health: Insurance & Immunization Requirements
- **May 02**: Finances & Student Accounts
- **May 03**: SEVIS Transfer Process
- **May 07**: Student Life and Getting Involved
- **May 09**: Campus Safety

All webinars will be recorded and posted at [iNewStudentWebinars.ucsd.edu](http://iNewStudentWebinars.ucsd.edu)
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9am - 4pm
+1 858.534.3730
iContact.ucsd.edu

iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

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