



# ABOUT YOUR I-20

You must use the I-20 to secure your F-1 by taking it with you to the US Embassy. If you decide to study at another school, come to the United States for any other reason, or do not come to the United States at all, you **MAY NOT** use the University of Wyoming I-20. Please notify us if you will not be using the I-20 or will not be arriving on the date specified on your admissions letter.

When you fill out the form I-901, you will need these numbers from your I-20:

- Your SEVIS ID number (on the upper right hand corner of your I-20).
- The University of Wyoming (UW-ELC) school ID number is DEN214F00241000.

## Applying for an F-1 Visa

You have already applied to the UW-ELC and have been accepted. You now have an “I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status” for our program, and must use it to apply for the F-1 Visa.

Please follow these steps:

1. **Make a visa appointment** with the nearest US Embassy. There may be wait times, so please visit the Visa Wait Times page on the US Department of State website for more information.  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/>
2. **Pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee** before you go to your interview. The fee is \$200 US. For instructions, visit <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/i-901-sevis-fee-payment-tutorial>.
  - You must have your I-20 from UW-ELC.
  - Decide how you want to pay (online, check, money order, or bank draft).
  - To pay online (fastest) go to <https://fmjfee.com>. You will be able to print your receipt immediately. You will ALSO receive a printed receipt in the regular mail.
  - You can also mail in your payment using courier or regular mail service. Courier is fast but costs around \$30. Regular mail can take up to two weeks for your payment to reach SEVP. Allow two **additional** weeks for your receipt to arrive by mail. Make sure to pay the fee before attending your interview. You need the receipt at your interview!
3. **Prepare for the Visa Interview:**
  - Your interview will probably be in English. It helps to practice before your interview.

- Be sure to bring:
    - The UW-ELC form I-20 with your admission letter
    - A receipt for the SEVIS fee.
    - A receipt for the visa processing fee for each applicant:  
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html>
    - A completed DS-158 and DS-156 non-immigrant visa application with a photo of each person applying. These forms are available online at: <http://evisaforms.state.gov>
    - A passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your entry to the US
    - Financial documents that show you have enough money to cover tuition and living expenses during your time in the US. You must show where the money comes from (these should be the same documents you used to apply to the UW-IEP program).
    - Proof of your relationship to your spouse and children if you are married and/or have children.
  - Be prepared to answer questions. Remember, the F-1 Visa is for people who intend to return to their own country. You must convince the official that you have a residence in your home country, you intend to return to your home country, you will leave the US when your study is completed, and that you need English for future studies and career. Here are some common questions you might be asked:
    - How are you going to pay for your studies in the United States?
    - What ties do you have to your country? (“Ties to your country” might include property or other assets, a business, offer of a job upon return, your family, or social obligations).
    - How can you guarantee your return to your country?
    - What are your educational plans in the United States?
    - Where will you live?
4. **Try again. If you are denied a visa**, ask the official how to reapply, but do not argue. The most common reasons for a visa refusal is that the official thinks you may not return to your home country, OR there is a problem with your financial evidence. Depending on how long you need to wait for your next interview, you may need to reapply to the UW-ELC. If you do need to reapply for a visa, be prepared to bring more evidence that you plan to return to your home country. It is important that you contact the English Language Center promptly if your visa is denied.