

Guide to Applying for a J-1 Visa

1. 📅 When to Apply

- **Start Early:** Begin your visa application process well in advance of your program's start date.
 - **Processing Time:** U.S. consulates/embassies cannot issue a J-1 visa more than 120 days prior to your program start date. However, you may apply as soon as you receive your DS-2019 form.
 - **Check Embassy Requirements:** Visit the U.S. embassy or consulate website where you plan to apply for specific instructions.
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2. 📁 Required Documents

Before scheduling your visa interview, ensure you have:

- **DS-2019 Form:** Issued by HIU's OISS after your admission and submission of necessary documents.
 - **SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt:** Pay this fee at fmjfee.com and save the confirmation.
 - **DS-160 Confirmation Page:** Complete the DS-160 visa application online.
 - **Passport:** Valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay in the U.S.
 - **Visa Photo:** U.S. visa-compliant passport photo.
 - **Financial Support Documents:** Evidence of sufficient funds (e.g., scholarship letter, bank statements).
 - **Dependent DS-2019 Forms (if applicable):** Separate forms for each J-2 dependent.
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3. 📝 Visa Application Steps

Step 1: Pay the SEVIS Fee

- Go to fmjfee.com
- Use your SEVIS ID (from your DS-2019)
- Print and save the receipt

Step 2: Complete DS-160 Form

- Access it at: <https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC/>
- Fill out the form accurately
- Print the confirmation page with barcode

Step 3: Schedule Your Visa Interview

- Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate
- Wait times vary, so schedule early
- Have your documents ready for the appointment

Step 4: Attend Your Interview

Bring:

- DS-2019 form
- Invitation Letter and or Letter of Admission from HIU
- DS-160 confirmation page
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Financial documents
- Passport and photo

Answer all questions truthfully and clearly.

Step 5: Receive Your Visa

- After approval, your visa will be stamped into your passport
 - **Check for accuracy** (name, SEVIS number, dates)
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4. ✈️ Travel Planning

- **Do NOT book flights until you have your visa.**
 - **Entry to the U.S.:** You may arrive up to **30 days before** the program start date on your DS-2019.
 - **Visa Validity:** Ensure your visa is valid for the duration of your intended stay.
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5. 🚨 Troubleshooting & Support

- **Visa Denied or Delayed?** Contact the International Student and Scholar Advisor immediately for guidance.
 - **Need Help?** Reach out to OISS with any questions related to your visa process or documents.
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📌 Helpful Links

- HIU OISS J-1 Visa Info: oiss.hartfordinternational.edu
 - DS-160 Form: <https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC/>
 - SEVIS Fee: fmjfee.com
 - U.S. Embassy Info: usembassy.gov
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