

Steps to Obtain your Visa

ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Elliott

Congratulations! You've been admitted to a graduate program at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University! Now you must begin the process to obtain your F-1 visa to study in the United States. Our office will work with you to help you obtain the I-20 form necessary to request an F-1 from the U.S. government. Please read and follow the steps listed below:

Note: We do not issue DS-2019s (for J-1 visas). For applicants needing a J-1 visa, the DS-2019 will need to be issued by your sponsor.



1 RESPOND TO YOUR ADMISSIONS OFFER

Complete the online form to reply to your offer of admission by logging into your [online application portal](#).



2 PAY THE \$500 DEPOSIT ONLINE

Submit your \$500 non-refundable tuition deposit via your [online application portal](#). We cannot begin processing your visa documents until the deposit has been made.

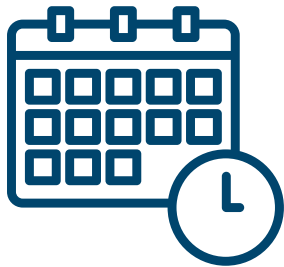
Please [wait 2-3 business days](#) for the system to process your deposit.



3 SUBMIT VISA DOCUMENTS

Once your deposit is confirmed, our office will contact you by email to request the documents needed to obtain your I-20.

- We will contact you by email with a list of documents that we need from you in order to begin the visa process.
- All documents should be in PDF format sent to esiaiso@gwu.edu. We do not accept hard-copies.
- If you provided documents with your application, they will be reviewed and we will contact you if changes are necessary.



4 CREATION OF I-20 DOCUMENTS

Once your documents are completed and approved by our office, they will be submitted to the GW International Services Office (ISO) to be processed for the creation of your I-20. This process takes approximately 12-15 business days, so please be patient. If further information is needed from you, you will be contacted by email.



5 ELECTRONIC I-20 EMAILED BY ISO

Once your I-20 has been created by ISO, the GW ISO will email you an electronic copy of your I-20 with instructions on how to print and sign the document. This will be sent to your GWmail.

GWMail is the university's email system for students and alumni. All official communication will be sent to your GWMail email address.

6 MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

The email that you received from the GW ISO will include your SEVIS number, school code and other information that you will need to schedule a visa interview at your local U.S. embassy or consulate.

- We strongly encourage you to schedule your visa interview soon after you receive your electronic I-20.
- Once your interview is complete, all remaining parts of the visa process will be managed by the U.S. government. Our office will not be able to provide any further information regarding your visa status or issuance.
- Once you have obtained your visa, please contact our office (esiaiso@gwu.edu) to let us know. In addition, please let us know when you plan to arrive in the U.S.

