



## How to Apply for a Student Visa

You should apply for your student visa 2-3 months (or earlier) before the start date of your academic program at Monroe Community College. Holiday periods are very busy times at the U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide, and it is important for you to have your visa in time to arrive and attend Orientation and Registration activities. Appointments are now mandatory for all student visas, and some U.S. Embassies and Consulates require that appointments be made at least 4 to 8 weeks in advance.

Please visit the following website to find the Embassy/Consulate nearest to you, and to access the online DS-160 visa application. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>

### What to Bring with you to the Visa Appointment

- Passport
- Required photos
- DS-160 Visa application fee or DS-160 Payment Receipt
- SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt (Form I-797)
- Monroe Community College Acceptance Letter
- SEVIS I-20
- Academic Records
- Proof of English Proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS Scores)
- Proof of Financial Support - bank statements
- Any other documents required by the Embassy or Consulate

### The Process

Apply for your student visa as soon as possible to allow enough time for your visa processing. The embassy/consulate will accept your application but not issue your visa more than three months before the date you are required to report to Monroe Community College, as shown on your Form I-20.

The person who decides whether or not to give you a visa to come to the U.S. is a “consul.” Consulates view you as someone who plans to remain in the U.S. permanently. The consul has to assume that your intention is not to return to your home. *Do not be upset or take it personally if the consul says something like this to you!* He or she *must* see you as someone who wants to emigrate to the U.S; it is their duty to treat you as such.

Student visas are only given to persons who can convince the consul that they intend to return permanently to their home country. This is the number one reason for a Visa denial!

You must have a good academic objective for coming to the U.S. and Monroe Community College to study that will prepare you for a career back home. You must be able to prove your qualifications for the program of study and that you can finance it.

## More Suggestions

Be ready to clearly explain why you want to come to the U.S. to study at Monroe Community College.

- Why do you want to study in the U.S.?
- Why are you going to take this program of study?
- Why did you choose Monroe Community College?
- What career will your studies prepare you for back home?

Present evidence of your educational qualifications for admission to Monroe Community College and the original copies of the financial documents you gave us. Your financial documents should match what appears on your Form I-20 (shown on page 1, Financials).

Be ready to convince the consul that you will return home permanently after you complete your studies. Present documents that can prove you have “ties” to your home country, which are so strong they will *require* you to return.

- To prove that you have a permanent residence in your country that you do not intend to abandon by taking a photocopy of a deed or lease to your home.
- If your family owns a business, take a letter from the bank describing it. If they own property, take the deeds.
- If you have traveled to the U.S. before, emphasize that you have returned home before.
- If your program of study is in great demand in your country, obtain a letter from a potential employer stating that they are interested in hiring people with the degrees similar to the one you will earn at Monroe Community College.

Practice your English. Unless you are going to study English on campus and it appears on your I-20 in item number 6, you are expected to be able to speak it and show your TOEFL/IELTS score. The consul may ask you to read from a U.S. newspaper or discuss what your I-20 says.

## What if your Visa is Denied?

Denial on the grounds of 214(b) means that you did not present sufficient evidence that you will return home following the completion of your studies. 214(b) is the number one reason for visa denial. If you have been denied based on those grounds there is not much we can do except to advise you on how to better prepare for your next visa application. If you are denied on any other grounds please provide details to the college and we can try to advise you accordingly.

*This information was last updated on 4/17/2018 It is not legal advice.*