



Pre- Arrival Guide for International Students

Welcome to Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security (DMGS). We are delighted that you will be joining our graduate program and look forward to welcoming you into our community.

We have designed this pre-arrival guide to help you obtain your student visa and prepare you for your arrival in Washington, D.C.

Please review this guide and let us know what questions we can answer as you prepare to join the DMGS community. We look forward to meeting you soon!

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STEP 1: Financial Responsibility and Cost of Attendance

After you have been accepted, you must prove that you have the financial ability to pay for education and living expenses while attending our graduate school. An official original bank statement demonstrating sufficient funds to cover the balance of your education expenses is required. The statement must be signed and stamped by a bank official and dated no earlier than three months prior to DMGS sending you the I-20 form.

All students must also fill out and return the International Student Supplemental Information Form, which will be provided to you via email from the DMGS Office of the Registrar.

If you are in the U.S. and have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an F1 or F2 student visa, a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa, or a G series visa (pertaining to international organizations), you will not be eligible for Federal Student Aid.

Cost of Attendance

Full Time (9 Credit Hours)

*Tuition and Fees – \$ 11,700 a Semester, \$23,400 a Year
Room and Board - \$10,270 a Semester, \$20,540 a Year
Books and Supplies - \$775 a Semester, \$1,550 a Year
Transportation - \$553 a Semester, \$1106 a Year
Personal Expenses - \$2,020 a Semester, \$4,040 a Year

Total

\$25,318 a Semester, \$50,636 a Year

*Subject to Change

STEP 2: I-20 Form

Once you receive an acceptance letter from DMGS and have proven you have the financial ability to come to the U.S., the Registrar will issue you a form I-20. A form I-20 is a certificate of eligibility for nonimmigrant (F-1) students. As soon as you receive your form I-20, you should begin the visa application process. It is best to apply for your student visa as early as possible (up to 120 days before the first day of classes).

STEP 3: The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee

The SEVIS I-901 fee is a one-time \$200 mandatory government fee that must be paid by students before applying for an F-1 visa. The purpose of the fee is to help cover the administration and maintenance cost of the SEVIS program.

You will pay the fee after you have received your I-20. The SEVIS I-901 fee can be paid by credit card, U.S. check, money order, foreign draft by mail, or Western Union. For more information about the SEVIS fee, including how to pay it visit www.FMJfee.com.

STEP 4: Obtaining an F-1 Visa

As part of the visa application process, an interview at your local U.S. embassy consular section is required.

The waiting time for an interview appointment can vary, so early visa application is strongly encouraged. Each U.S. embassy and consulate has a website linked to <https://www.usembassy.gov/> which will have information on how to apply for a student visa and how to make an appointment.

A list of U.S. consulates and embassies and their average visa processing wait time can be found linked to <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

Submit Your Visa Application

Each applicant for the student visa must submit the following forms and documentation:

- A form I-20 issued by DMGS.
- A completed nonimmigrant visa application [form DS-160](#). Review it and print it immediately with the specific bar code.
- Pay the Visa fee (\$160) at the designated bank in your country.
- A passport valid for travel to the U.S. and with a validity date extending at least six months beyond your intended period of stay within the U.S.
- One passport photograph measuring 2" x 2".
- A SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.

Applicants should be prepared to provide the following documents at their Visa interview:

- Your DMGS acceptance letter.
- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended.
- Scores from standardized tests required by DMGS such as TOEFL and GRE.
- Current financial evidence that demonstrates you or your sponsor have sufficient funds to pay for tuition and living expenses for the duration of your stay. These documents must have been issued within the past three months.
- Evidence to prove your intent to return to your home country upon completion of studies.

Guidance for your Visa Interview:

Please consider the following suggestions for your visa interview. We recommend that you contact the Education USA educational advising center in your region (<https://educationusa.state.gov>), to help you prepare. You can also review these helpful [interview tips](#).

- Your visa interview will be brief, probably less than three minutes. Keep your answers short and to the point.
- Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language.
- Under U.S. law, all applicants for non-immigrant visas are viewed as intending immigrants. You must be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the U.S. “Ties” to your home country are the things that bind you to your hometown such as a job, family, inheritances, etc.
- Speak for yourself. Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview.
- Know how the program fits into your career plans and be able to explain how it relates to your professional career when you return home.
- In case of visa denial, do not engage the officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal. Then ask for the reason you were denied in writing.

STEP 5: Plan for Housing

One of the most important things you will have to take care of before you start your studies in the U.S. is finding a place to live. This is an important decision since it will be one of your biggest expenses and will affect your personal and academic adjustment. If you need assistance finding housing, please contact our Director of Student Services, Tisia Saffold Saffold@dmgs.org.

STEP 6: Immunization

D.C. Immunization Law 3-20 requires all students under the age of 26, who are enrolled in a post-secondary school of higher education (college or university), to submit proof of immunization as follows:

- Two (2) doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccines (MMR) or a positive blood test for MMR.
- One (1) booster for Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) within the last 10 years.
- Three (3) doses of Hepatitis-B Vaccines or a positive blood test for Hepatitis-B.
- Two (2) Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccines if the first dose was given after age 12 or a positive blood test for Varicella.

The immunization form can be found in your student admission packet. Immunization records must be in English or accompanied by an English translation. For recommendations on local Washington, D.C. physician offices, please contact the DMGS Registrar (contact information is at the end of this document).

STEP 7: Prepare for Travel to the U.S.

Daniel Morgan Graduate School expects you to report to school in time for new student orientation. You are allowed to enter the U.S. no more than 30 days before the reporting date listed on the I-20 (section 5). If you are facing unexpected delays in arriving and need to report later than the date listed on your I-20 document, you must notify the Office of the Registrar as soon as possible to discuss your options.

When purchasing your plane tickets, please look at the dates from the academic calendar, which can be found at <https://dmgs.org/academics/academic-calendar-and-catalog/>.

Hand carry the following documents with you on the plane (not in your luggage):

- Passport with your F-1 visa.
- SEVIS form I-20
- Copy of confirmation of SEVIS fee payment
- Evidence of financial resources
- Evidence of student status, such as a letter of acceptance, tuition receipts or transcripts.
- Contact information for the Registrar's Office (listed at the end of this guide)

Inform the immigration officer at the port of entry that you will be a student in the U.S. to ensure that you are admitted with student status.

Transportation to D.C.

Washington, D.C. is served by three airports:

Dulles International (IAD) <https://www.airport-dulles.com/>

Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) <https://www.bwiairport.com/>

Reagan National Airport (DCA) <http://flyreagan.com/dca/reagan-national-airport>

You are responsible for arranging your own transportation into Washington, D.C. and DMGS. From each airport there are numerous ground transportation options, including taxis, shared shuttle vans, public buses and trains. The Washington D.C. area is served by a public transit system, WMATA. Please visit their site at <https://www.wmata.com> for bus and train information.

STEP 8: Check- In at the Registrar's Office

To validate your immigration status, we must review and copy your original immigration documents listed below. We will also need you to validate your local address. Failure to report to the Registrar's Office with these documents will jeopardize your immigration status.

- Valid passport with F-1 visa
- I-20
- I-94 record (This will be issued upon entry into the U.S.)

Resources and Other Helpful Websites

- Embassies in Washington, DC: embassy.org/embassies
- Pre-Departure Checklist: <https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study/prepare-your-departure>
- Getting Ready to Go: Practical Information for Living and Studying in the US: <https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study>
- Washington D.C. Public Transportation System: <https://wmata.com>
- General Information about Studying in the U.S. including visa information <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>

Questions? Please Contact Us:

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