5 Steps to Study in the U.S.

1. Research schools
2. Finances
3. Apply to schools
4. Apply for a student visa
5. Pre-departure orientation
Find Your Best Fit

Self-Assessment

What’s Important to YOU?

Criteria-Based Selection

Narrow Your Choices
Self-Assessment
What’s Important to You?

- Financial Aid
- Type of School
- Cost
- Location
- Sports & Activities
- Admissions
- Majors
- Housing
- Special Needs

U.S. Consulate General, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Criteria-Based Selection
Narrow your Choices

Make a list of your top 5 schools!
Scholarships and Financial Aid

Colleges and Universities
- Various requirements
- Different scholarship/financial aid amounts

Government
- Fulbright Program

Work Study
- On campus
- Part-time internship

Organizations & Foundations
- East-West Center
- Japan IMF
Where to Start?

Visit: www.educationusa.state.gov
Contact us: HCMCEDUSA@state.gov and (08) 3520 4685
Follow us: www.facebook.com/achochohiminh.usconsulate
Applying for a Student Visa
4 Tips for Applying for a Student Visa

Applying for a visa is not a lottery. You have to be a qualified student!

Always tell the truth. Always!

Documents are not essential.

Do your research, and tell us about it!
Save Your Money. Our Information is FREE!!

Do not pay anyone for coaching or fake documents.

Do not believe anyone who says you should pay.
Before Applying for a Visa: Remember to do your research!
Have questions about doing your research? EducationUSA is here to help!

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How to Apply for a Student Visa

Request your I-20

Schedule an interview and pay the application fee

Prepare for the interview

Interview

Next Steps
Once you apply to a school and are accepted, remember to request this form: The I-20.

You will need this form to interview for a student visa.

The I-20 Form
How do I schedule an interview?

- Schedule an interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate, following the instructions on our website: www.ustraveldocs.com/vn

- And remember that you can apply for your visa up to **120 days** before your start date.
What information can I find on www.ustraveldocs.com/vn?

- Information on applying for a visa, the visa application fee, scheduling an appointment, and having your visa delivered.

- Your visa application fee includes:
  - An appointment for a visa interview
  - Access to a Call Center for visa inquiries or assistance.
  - Passport delivery for approved visas
How to Prepare for the Interview

☑ Follow the instructions on www.ustraveldocs.com:
  - Complete the DS-160
  - Pay your $160 application fee
  - Make an appointment

☑ Obtain your original I-20 from the school.

☑ Optional: Prepare your transcripts (hoc ba, bang diem) and any other relevant documents.

☑ Register with SEVIS and pay the SEVIS fee. Remember to bring the receipt to the interview.
The Interview Process

1. Show up on time.
2. Go through security and check in your electronics.
3. Line up to have your documents checked. If you don’t have the required documents, you may not be able to interview on that day.
5. Stand in line and wait to be called to an interview window.
6. Interview!

The whole process usually takes only 45 minutes!
The Interview

- Show that you are a qualified student:
  - You have sufficient finances to pay for your studies.
  - You intend to complete your course of study.
  - You intend to leave the United States when your studies are complete.
How can I show that I am qualified for a visa?

- Be prepared to discuss your educational background and your plans for the future.

- Be prepared to discuss your parents’ financial situation and how they will pay for your studies. If you have a scholarship, mention it and make sure it’s on your I-20!

- Speak English if you can, but please do not memorize a speech. Memorized speeches sound the same, and you want to stand out. Don’t forget to listen carefully to the officer’s questions and answer the questions you are asked.
The Final Decision

Our goal is to issue a visa to every qualified student visa applicant.

Remember that to qualify, the law requires students to demonstrate:

- Intention and ability to be a successful, full-time student.
- Ability to pay for studies and living expenses.
- Sufficient English according to the I-20.
Next Steps

- What happens if my visa is approved?
  - Wait for us to mail your passport to you in 2-3 business days. Don’t forget to take your I-20 with you when you travel to the States!

- What happens if my visa is refused?
  - You can reapply
    - If possible, you can interview with a new consular officer.
    - You must schedule a new appointment and pay the fee again.
    - You must tell us what’s new. Don’t expect a different decision without new information about your qualifications for the visa.
Myth #1: Visa Quotas

- There is no limit to the number of student visas we issue – the more, the better!

- If you are a serious student, we want you to study in the United States!
Myth #2: Documents = Visa

- Documents can be helpful, but the interview is the key step in the entire visa process.
Myth #3: Relatives in the U.S.

- Having relatives in the U.S. does not automatically qualify or disqualify you from getting a visa – even if they help finance your education! You just have to be honest.
Myth #4: There are “right” answers

- There is **no** one right answer.

- The most important thing is to be honest in describing your personal circumstances.
Recap: The Top Five Things You Should Remember!

- There are no student visa quotas, but applying for a visa is not a lottery. You have to be a qualified student!
- Come to us for information. It’s free!
- Always tell the truth. Always!
- Documents are important, but not essential.
- Do your research, and tell us about it!
Helpful Resources

- www.travel.state.gov
- www.ustraveldocs.com/vn
- www.ice.gov/sevis
- www.educationusa.state.gov
Questions?