

VISA STEPS

This packet contains your Form I-20 or DS-2019 form issued by Hawai'i Pacific University.

These documents are required to apply for an F-1 or J-1 student visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

PRINT ALL PAGES! U.S. Immigration will NOT accept copies, digital versions, or screenshots.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SEVIS FEE

What is the SEVIS fee?	The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires all international students and exchange visitors to pay a SEVIS fee when studying in the U.S. This fee is different from the MRV Visa Fee and cannot be refunded if your visa is denied. For more info, see: www.hpu.edu/oiss/new-students/pre-arrival-checklist.html .
How much is the fee?	The SEVIS fee is \$350 for F-1 (I-20) students and \$220 for J-1 (DS-2019) students. There is no fee for spouses and children (F-2 or J-2) of students or exchange visitors.
When do I pay the fee?	Applicants requiring a visa to enter the U.S. must pay the SEVIS fee before their visa interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The fee must be paid at least 3 business days before the interview.
How do I make my payment?	Complete the SEVIS I-901 online at www.fmjfee.com using your credit card and bring the receipt to your visa interview. The payment confirmation can be printed anytime by clicking on " Check I-901 Status/Print Payment Confirmation ".
Do certain countries have payment exceptions?	Citizens of Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria CANNOT pay the fee with a credit card. For more info, visit hpu.edu/OISS .

STEPS TO GET YOUR STUDENT VISA

For all countries **EXCEPT** Canada (Canadian citizens do not need a visa to enter the U.S.)

1	Schedule an Appointment	Pay the SEVIS fee, then book an appointment at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate to apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa. Learn more at ustraveldocs.com/ .
2	Complete DS-160 Application & Pay the MRV Visa Fee	Complete the DS-160 Application at https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/ then create an account on U.S. Travel Docs ustraveldocs.com and pay the MRV Visa Fee.
3	Gather Documents	Bring these documents to your interview: 1. Valid passport 2. HPU acceptance letter 3. I-901 SEVIS fee receipt 4. MRV Visa fee receipt 5. Signed original I-20 or DS-2019 form issued by HPU 6. Proof of financial support as stated on the I-20 form 7. DS-160 confirmation page 8. Appointment confirmation page
4	Attend Visa Interview	Be prepared to answer questions about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why you plan to study in the U.S. Why you chose to study at Hawai'i Pacific University Your plans to return to your home country after completing your studies
5	Post Interview	The visa officer will keep your passport to stamp the F-1 or J-1 visa. You will be notified when it's ready for pickup.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

1	When can I enter the U.S.?	International students can enter the U.S. within 30 days before the start date on the I-20 or DS-2019. Arriving earlier may result in denied entry by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Contact your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for more info.
2	Point of Entry Concerns	Keep your <i>original</i> Form I-20 (3 pages) or DS-2019 form (2 pages) in your carry-on bag as U.S. Immigration and government officials may ask to see it. Copies, digital versions, or screenshots WILL NOT be accepted. <i>*Canadian students must show the original Form I-20 with their passport to USCBP.</i>
3	What to do after I arrive in Hawaii?	The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires the school to verify your arrival in the SEVIS system within 30 days to confirm your legal status. You must report to HPU OISS within 3 business days of arriving in Honolulu. Bring your passport, original I-20 (all 3 pages printed) or DS-2019 (2 pages), Hawaii address, and a screenshot of your I-94 travel record. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE: The I-94 may take 24-48 hours to update on the DHS website AFTER you arrive in the U.S. Refer to the I-94 Fact Sheet here for more info.
4	Will I be notified of immigration regulation changes?	Activate your MyHPU Portal and check your email regularly. This is the only way you'll get updates on immigration rules. You are responsible for maintaining your status and complying with your visa regulations during your stay in the U.S. Failure to comply will result in immediate termination of status and deportation from the U.S.



HPU OISS Location: For immigration reporting and advising

Student Services Center
500 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 5A
(street level by the blue umbrellas across from the Row Bar)
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: +1 808-356-5299

Office Hours: Monday – Friday (8:30 AM - 3:30 PM)

NOTE: All offices are closed on weekends and university holidays listed on the [HPU Academic Calendar](#).

Questions or Concerns? Contact Us:

Office of International Students and Scholars

+1 (808) 356-5299 • iss@hpu.edu • www.hpu.edu/oiss