Steps to Obtain your Visa
to Study at GW’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Congratulations - you’ve been admitted to a graduate program at the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) at the George Washington University!

Now you must begin the process to obtain your visa to study in the United States. Our office will work with you each step of the way to help you obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 form needed to request your F-1 or J-1 visa from the U.S. government. *Please note: Most students require an I-20 for an F-1 visa. If you require a J-1 visa, use the same steps below to obtain a DS-2019.

Please follow the steps below:

1. Respond to your Offer of Admission
   Log in to your application and click on the “Reply to Offer” link in your online admission letter. We cannot start processing your I-20 until you accept your Offer of Admission.

2. Submit visa documents
   Once you have accepted your admission, our office will contact you by email to request the documents needed to obtain your I-20.
   - If you provided these documents with your application, they will be reviewed and you will be contacted only if changes are needed.
   - If you did not provide these documents with your application, you will be contacted by email with a list of documents that we need from you in order to begin the visa process.
   - All documents should be sent to askccas@gwu.edu.

3. Creation of your I-20
   Once your documents are complete 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.

Approximately 12-15 business days to process
Arranging shipment of your I-20
While your I-20 is being processed, we will send you an email with instructions on creating your shipping label.

- You are required to pay for the delivery cost of your I-20. The cost may vary depending on the courier and delivery rate that you choose.
- You should arrange shipping via eShipGlobal: http://study.eshipglobal.com
- You may select only FedEx, UPS, or DHL as the courier to deliver your I-20.

Once the shipping label has been created through eShipGlobal and received by our office, your I-20 will be sent. You will receive an email with a tracking number to track your I-20 delivery. Please refer to your email for detailed instructions.

Make an appointment for your visa interview
In the same email confirming the shipment of your I-20, you will also receive a 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 confirmation of your I-20 being shipped. You do not need the I-20 in your possession in order to schedule the interview.
- 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.
- More information:
  For I-20 (F-1) visa interviews:
  https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/06/five-ways-to-prepare-for-your-visa-interview
  For DS-2019 (J-1) visa interviews:
  https://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/interviews-documents/

Reach out to your local EducationUSA Center
EducationUSA Advising centers can help guide you through the student visa process. There are over 400 centers worldwide and many offer Student Visa Information Sessions as well as Pre-departure Orientations. Search for your local advising center at https://educationusa.state.gov.

Questions:
If you have questions regarding any of these steps, please contact askccas@gwu.edu.

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