

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 these steps:



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.



Reply to Offer

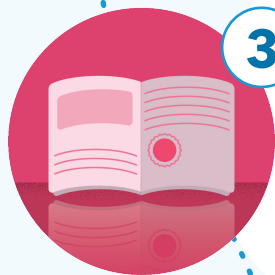


2

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.



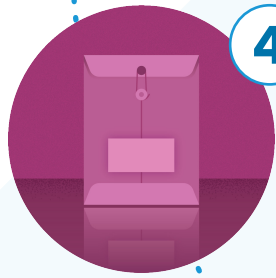
3

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

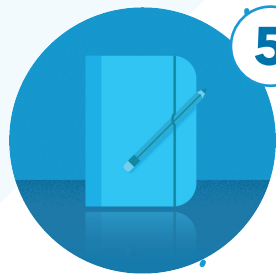


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Delivery of your I-20

Once your I-20 has been prepared, the GW International Services Office (ISO) will email you a scanned copy. You will need to print out and sign the I-20, and bring it with you to your visa interview.

GWMail is the university's email system for students and alumni. All official communication will be sent to your GWMail email address, so if you have not done so already, please [establish your GWMail email account](#).



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Make an appointment for your visa interview

The email that you receive from the GW International Services Office (ISO) will include your 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: [Five Ways to Prepare for Your Visa Interview](#)
For DS-2019 (J-1) visa interviews: [Exchange Visitor Program Interviews & Documents](#)



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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 on the [EducationUSA](#) website.

— YOU ARE —
Welcome
— HERE —



#YouAreWelcomeHere

Questions

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

Office of Graduate Studies

Columbian College
of Arts & Sciences

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