



## Student Visa Applicants

Students taking the full-time program of at least 25 classes (20.8 hours) per week at Language Pacifica are eligible for the I-20 for their requested study period to apply for the F-1 student visa. Following is information about preparing for the student visa application, applying for the student visa, and maintaining student status in the US.

### Section 1: Preparing the Student Visa Application

- 1) To apply to Language Pacifica, please send us:
  - Language Pacifica's completed enrollment form
  - A copy of your passport page
  - If you have any dependents, copies of their passport pages
  - A copy of the bank letter dated within 6 months that will be shown to the embassy showing that you have at least \$2500 per month (plus \$1250/month per dependent, if you'll bring dependents) available for the time period on the I-20
  - Language Pacifica's application fee of \$95
- 2) When we have received these, we'll make the I-20 within one business day and mail it to you. Please ask the school for mailing options.
- 3) Next, please complete the Form I-901 at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/> and submit it, with its \$200 fee, to the U.S. government. Print the receipt immediately. You will need the receipt for your visa interview. See <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/> for detailed information on the process of applying to study in the US.

### Please note:

- It is easiest to apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in your home country.
- If you are already in the U.S. on an I-20 from another school and would like to change schools, your I-20 must be transferred, which means that your current school transfers your SEVIS record to the new school. You will not need to apply for the visa again or pay the I-901 again if you were in status at the current school and begin at your new school within the authorized time. Include a copy of your current I-20 with your application to Language Pacifica.
- If you are in the U.S. on another type of visa and would like to change to a student visa, you must apply for a change of visa status. To do this, apply to the school, receive the I-20, and then submit the documents requested along with the I-539 (Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status) to USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services). There is no set period for the length of time it will take USCIS to respond. If your visa status expires while you are waiting for a decision from USCIS, your application to change status will be denied. We recommend consulting an immigration lawyer when attempting to change visa status. See <https://www.uscis.gov/visit-united-states/change-my-nonimmigrant-status-category/change-my-nonimmigrant-status> for further information.

### Section 2: Applying for a Student Visa

#### Bring to your visa interview:

- A signed Form I-20 issued by the school that you plan to attend
- Completed application Form DS-160 (Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application). Some applicants will also be required to complete and sign Form DS-157 (Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application). Children need a separate form.
- A passport valid for at least six months after the proposed date of entry into the United States.
- A 2" x 2" photo (One photograph, size two inches tall and two inches wide).

- A fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee, a visa issuance fee if applicable (please consult the Visa Reciprocity Table at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/ reciprocity/ reciprocity\\_3272.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/ reciprocity/ reciprocity_3272.html)) and a separate SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.

**You should also be prepared to show:**

- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution such as the TOEFL, SAT, etc.
- Financial evidence showing that you have enough money for tuition and living expenses during the period of intended study. For example:
  - If you or your sponsor is a salaried employee, you should bring income tax documents and original bank records and/or statements
  - If you or your sponsor owns a business, you should bring business registration, licenses, etc. and tax documents, as well as original bank records and/or statements
- Applicants with dependents must also provide proof of relationship to their spouse and/or children, such as marriage and birth certificates
- Families should apply for F-1 and F-2 visas at the same time, but if the spouse and children must apply separately, they should bring a copy of the student's passport and visa, along with all other required documents

See <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/04/how-to-prepare-for-your-visa-appointment> for more information.

### **Section 3: Staying in Status as a Student**

The student visa makes you a legal visitor to the US only when you are "in status". To stay in status, you must be a full-time student at the school that issued you the I-20. If you finish the time period on your I-20, you must extend the I-20, transfer the I-20, or leave the US.

The following are necessary for staying in status at Language Pacifica:

- ✓ Come to Language Pacifica to register and begin classes by the program start date on your I-20. (You may arrive in the US no more than 30 days before that program start date.)
  - If you can't arrive in the US on time, contact the school director to request a new I-20 with a later start date. You'll use this new I-20 when you enter the US.
  - If you arrive in the US by the program start date on your I-20 but do not register or begin classes, the school must cancel or terminate your I-20 and you will be out of status.
- ✓ Maintain at least 80% attendance in your full-time course of study.
  - Consult with the director before dropping below a full course of study for any reason.
  - Report any change in your academic status to the director.
- ✓ Maintain steady progress in our program.
- ✓ Talk with the director to extend your program of study at least one week before the end date on your I-20.
- ✓ Do not work in the US.

In addition, you must notify the director if:

- Your address changes (within 10 days of the change)
- There is any change in your sources of financial support
- You will travel outside the United States
- You apply for or receive a change of nonimmigrant status (visa type)
- You want to transfer to another school
- There is any change in the status of your dependents