

How do I get an interview at a U.S. Consulate?

Once you receive your DS-2019, use your SEVIS ID number which begins N000, and the University of West Florida's Exchange Visitor Program Number which is P-1-05068 to pay the \$180 SEVIS fee. You can pay this fee online by going to <http://www.fmjfee.com>.

After you have paid the SEVIS fee, you should contact the nearest embassy or consulate. Go to <http://usembassy.state.gov/> to locate the U.S. embassy or consulate nearest to you and determine what obtaining a visa appointment entails. Rules and regulations regarding embassy appointments differ depending on country or city where appointment is made.

To determine what the approximate wait times are for nonimmigrant visa appointments at your nearest consulate or embassy, go to http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php, scroll down to the bottom, and click on the arrow. Select the city where you plan to attend the visa appointment and follow the link to determine the wait time for J-1 nonimmigrant visa.

Before you make travel arrangements or purchase tickets to enter the U.S., it is advisable to wait until you have received an interview and have been notified that you have been approved for a visa.

Once you have been advised by the consular officer that you will receive an J-1 visa to enter the United States, contact UWF's International Student Office by e-mailing intered@uwf.edu and let us know the good news.

What can I expect during my Consular interview? Which documents should I bring with me?

Section 214(b) is part of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). It states:

Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a nonimmigrant status...

In laymen's language, this means that the burden is on you to prove to the consular officer that you do not intend to *immigrate* to the United States, that your intention is to study here and not remain here permanently.

For the purposes of your nonimmigrant student visa interview, you must prove to the consular officer that your intention is to return to your home country upon completion of your degree program.

To that end and to avoid being denied a nonimmigrant visa based on 214(b), bear in mind that you must prove to the consular officer that your desire is to remain *temporarily* in the United States and that you ultimately want to use the degree(s) obtained in the U.S. to better your future in your home country.

It is suggested that you bring:

- Bank statements from your home country
- Letters from immediate family stating that you intend to study in the US and then return to your home country
- A letter offering you a job in the future
- Evidence of any property you own (car, land...)
- Evidence of property owned by members of your immediate family