

Applying for a Visa

In order to obtain a valid student visa stamp in your passport you need to present the correct documents to the U.S. Embassy. You should have received an I-20 from UTChattanooga. This document identifies you and the school you will be attending. The I-20 is used to obtain an F-1 visa.

Please visit www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm for instruction on paying the I-901 SEVIS required fee. It is important to note that a visa appointment cannot be assigned without proof of payment of this fee.

Take the I-20 and financial documents proving your source of funding such as bank statements, scholarship letters, and assistantship letters to apply for your visa. Contact the U.S. Embassy in your home country to clarify if any other documents are required. These may include such items as a birth certificate or national identity card. The website of the U.S. Department of State maintains a list of US embassies and consulates worldwide. These websites provide detailed application procedures. <http://usembassy.state.gov>

At the port of entry into the U.S. simply present the full I-20 and your passport. Occasionally the Immigration officer will ask to see financial documents so carry those with you as well. As an F-1 student, the officer will stamp page 1 of either your I-20 with a red ink stamp. He/she will also stamp the arrival and departure card you filled out on the plane, called the I-94. The officer will keep the top part and give you the bottom part. He/She will usually staple this small white card to your passport.

Note: If you arrive through Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St Louis, or Charlotte international airports via US Airways and TWA from Munich, Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam, Madrid, Rome, or Paris, you should have been given an electronic I-94 (that looks like a boarding pass). **You must keep this!**