



# **Applying for an F-1 Student Visa: From Admission to Arrival in the US**

A photograph of a large, multi-story Gothic-style building with many windows and a prominent entrance, likely Garrett Seminary. The image is partially obscured by a large white circle on the right side of the slide.

# Congratulations!

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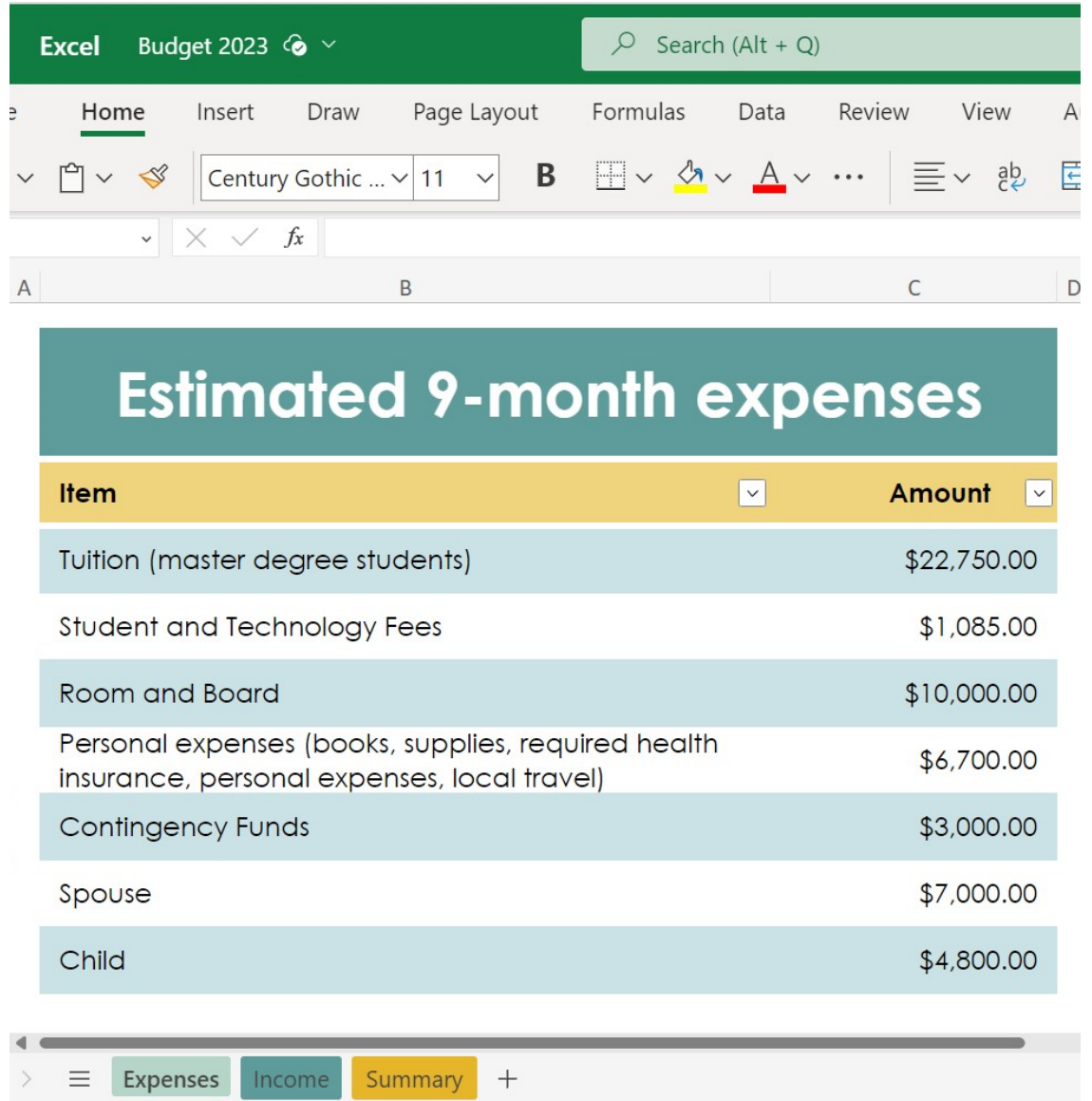
- If you've been accepted into one of Garrett's masters' level or doctoral programs
- AND
- You are an international student seeking an F-1 student visa to study at Garrett Seminary as an in-person student

Then the following instructions are for you!

# Step 1:

## Make a Financial Plan

- Before you move forward, it's important to understand that pursuing seminary in the US is an expensive endeavor.
- Please click here to view our: [International Student Budget](#) to determine you and/or your sponsors' ability to meet these financial needs.
- On sheet 1 "Expenses" you will see an estimate of expenses for 9 months. **If you do not plan to bring a spouse and/or children with you to the US, you can delete the amounts listed for spouse and children. If you plan to bring more than one child, you will need to add an additional "child" line item to the expense sheet.**



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled "Budget 2023". The "Home" tab is selected in the ribbon. The spreadsheet displays a table titled "Estimated 9-month expenses". The table has two columns: "Item" and "Amount". The items listed are Tuition (master degree students), Student and Technology Fees, Room and Board, Personal expenses (books, supplies, required health insurance, personal expenses, local travel), Contingency Funds, Spouse, and Child. The amounts are \$22,750.00, \$1,085.00, \$10,000.00, \$6,700.00, \$3,000.00, \$7,000.00, and \$4,800.00 respectively. At the bottom, there are three tabs: "Expenses", "Income", and "Summary". The "Expenses" tab is currently selected.

Item	Amount
Tuition (master degree students)	\$22,750.00
Student and Technology Fees	\$1,085.00
Room and Board	\$10,000.00
Personal expenses (books, supplies, required health insurance, personal expenses, local travel)	\$6,700.00
Contingency Funds	\$3,000.00
Spouse	\$7,000.00
Child	\$4,800.00

# Make a Financial Plan continued...

- On sheet 2, “Income” enter the scholarship percentage awarded to you in your admissions letter in the box next to “Enter Scholarship Percentage here.”
- After you add the scholarship percentage, sheet 3 “Summary” will automatically update to show you the remaining amount of funds needed.
- As indicated in your admission packet, you will need to submit a \$500 confirmation of enrollment deposit and a large international student deposit of \$5500. Once you have submitted both amounts, you can add these to the income sheet. These funds will be available to you once you arrive in the US. The summary sheet will update accordingly.

Excel Budget 2023

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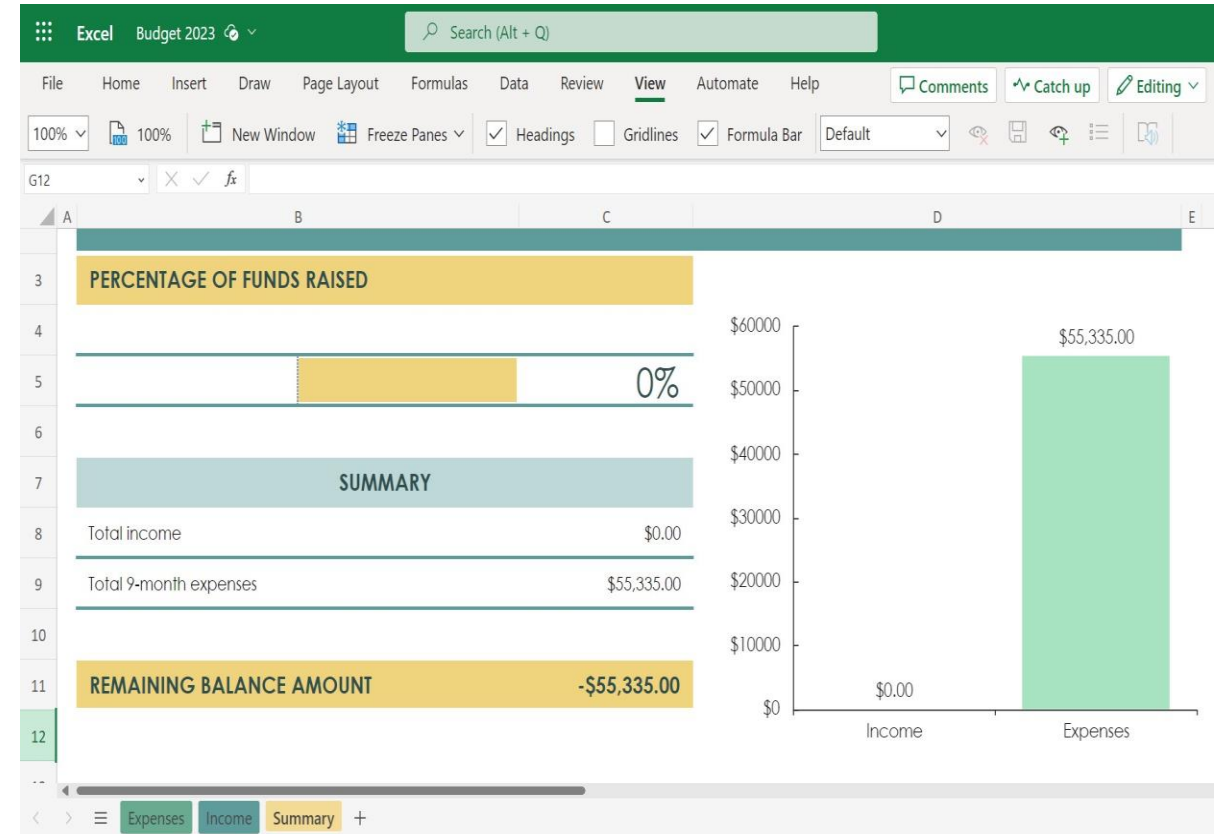
INCOME		
Item	Documentation	Amount
Scholarship	x	\$0.00
Confirmation of Enrollment Deposit (\$500)		\$0.00
International student large deposit (\$5500)		\$0.00
Other		\$0.00
Personal Funds:		\$0.00
Sponsor 1:		\$0.00
Sponsor 2:		\$0.00
Sponsor 3:		\$0.00
Sponsor 4:		\$0.00
Total		\$0.00

Enter Scholarship Percentage here: 0%

Expenses Income Summary

# Make a Financial Plan continued...

- Proof of the remaining balance amount can be shown in the form of personal/family funds or one or multiple sponsors' funds with bank statements and statements of support. When you add your personal funds, and sponsors' names and the amounts they will be providing under income, the summary sheet will update accordingly.
- After you've added the scholarship percentage, both deposits, personal funds, and funds from sponsors to the income sheet, the summary sheet should indicate \$0 or a positive balance next to "Remaining Balance Amount." When you reach \$0 or more that means you have sufficient funds, and you are ready to apply for an I-20 document.



# Step 2: Confirm Your Enrollment

- Once you have made a financial plan, you are ready to pay the non-refundable **\$500** confirmation of enrollment deposit.
- If you have not yet paid the confirmation of enrollment deposit, refer to the Admission packet that was sent to you at the time of your admission.
- Instructions to pay the confirmation of enrollment deposit are available in the Admission packet.

## Confirmation of Enrollment

I accept/decline my offer of admission to Garrett-Evangelical Seminary: accept: accept

Are you an international or domestic student?: domestic: Domestic

To confirm my intention to enroll, I am submitting a \$200 deposit, which will be credited toward my first semester/term (understand is non-refundable).

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

I accept my offer of admission to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, beginning: FALL 2024: FALL 2024

To confirm my intention to enroll, I am submitting a \$500 deposit, which will be credited toward my first semester/term (understand is non-refundable).

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

I accept my offer of admission to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, beginning: :

Email: [REDACTED]

Time: 9:27:16 PM

ID: [REDACTED]

Date: 10/12/2023



## Step 3: Submit Your International Student Large Deposit

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- Once you have submitted the confirmation of enrollment deposit, you can submit the refundable international student large deposit (\$5500).
- Please view our [wiring instructions](#) to submit the international student large deposit. You can also submit the entire \$6000 amount at one time.
- These amounts will be deposited in your student account and will be available to you upon your arrival in the US.
- Please note that if your plans change, the \$500 confirmation of enrollment deposit is non-refundable. However, the \$5500 deposit can be refunded if necessary.
- Please be in touch with [bursar@garrett.edu](mailto:bursar@garrett.edu) with any questions regarding payment of deposits.



# Step 4: Apply for an I-20

- What is an I-20? An I-20 document can be described in this way: “All F and M students that study in the United States need a **Form I-20**, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.” Once accepted into a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school, international students will receive a Form I-20 from their designated school official (DSO).” - Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Please be in touch with Thehil Russelliah Singh, Director of International Student Recruitment & Engagement and DSO [thehil.russelliahsingh@garrett.edu](mailto:thehil.russelliahsingh@garrett.edu) with any questions regarding applying for an I-20.

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status  
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: N0004720633



SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME Sample		GIVEN NAME Student	Class of Admission <b>F-1</b>  ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE
PREFERRED NAME Student Sample, II		PASSPORT NAME	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH LAOS		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP LAOS	
DATE OF BIRTH 04 MAY 1995		ADMISSION NUMBER	
FORM ISSUE REASON CONTINUED ATTENDANCE		REGISTRATION	
SCHOOL INFORMATION			
SCHOOL NAME SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies		SCHOOL ADDRESS 9002 Nancy Lane, Ft. Washington, MD 20744	
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL Helene Robertson PDSO		SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE BAL214F4444000 03 APRIL 2015	
PROGRAM OF STUDY			
EDUCATION LEVEL BACHELOR'S	MAJOR 1 History and Philosophy of Science and Technology 54.0104	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000	
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient	EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE 04 APRIL 2016	
START OF CLASSES 01 JUNE 2016	PROGRAM START/END DATE 04 MAY 2016 - 30 MAY 2020		
FINANCIALS			
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 15,000	Personal Funds	\$ 19,000
Living Expenses	\$ 4,000	Funds From This School	\$
Expenses of Dependents (0)	\$ 0	Funds From Another Source	\$
Other	\$ 0	On-Campus Employment	\$
TOTAL	\$ 19,000	TOTAL	\$ 19,000
REMARKS			
SCHOOL ATTESTATION			
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.			
X SIGNATURE OF: Helene Robertson, PDSO		DATE ISSUED 04 May 2016	PLACE ISSUED Ft. Washington, MD
STUDENT ATTESTATION			
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.			
X SIGNATURE OF: Student Sample		DATE	
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN		X SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city/state or province/country) DATE



# Apply for an I-20 continued...

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- You can start your I-20 application form by clicking on this link: [I-20 Application Form](#)
- Please note that you will need to be signed into your Garrett email to access the form.
- If you are having trouble accessing your Garrett email address, please be in touch with [technology.support@garrett.edu](mailto:technology.support@garrett.edu)


## I-20 Application

Fill in the below form and upload the required documents to receive your I-20. Please see the "Applying for an F1 visa: From Admission to Arrival in the US" document provided at admission for instructions. Contact [getadmitted@garrett.edu](mailto:getadmitted@garrett.edu) with any questions.


Hi, Thehil. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

\* Required

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. First or Given Name (as it appears on your passport) \* 

Enter your answer

2. Last or Surname (as it appears on your passport) \* 

## Step 5: Upload Personal Documents

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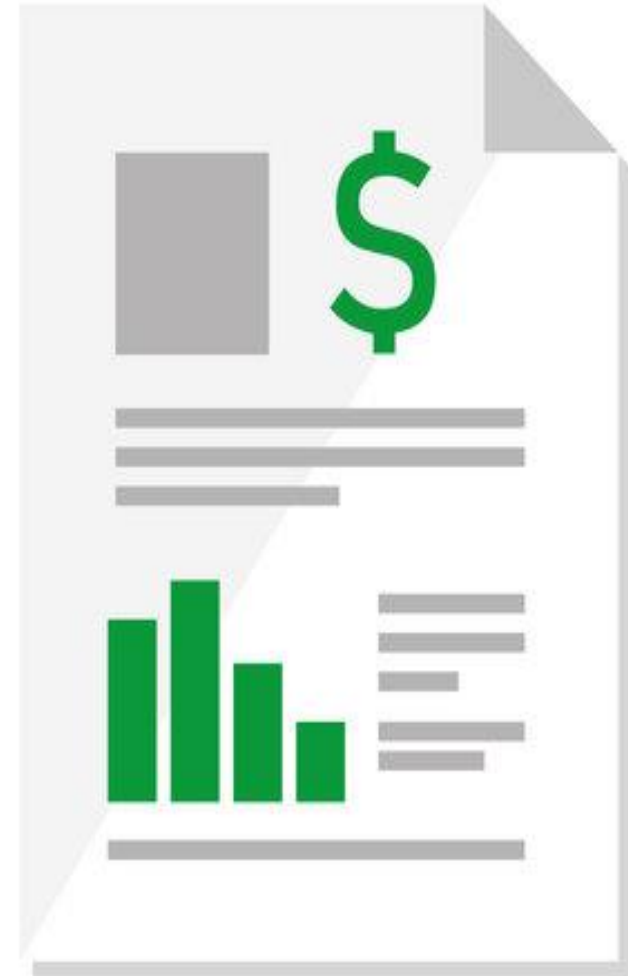
- The I-20 application form will require you to upload copies of personal documents such as:
  - Passports for you and any dependents (spouse and/or children)
  - [Transfer-in Form](#) (only for students with an active SEVIS record).



# Step 6: Upload Financial Documents

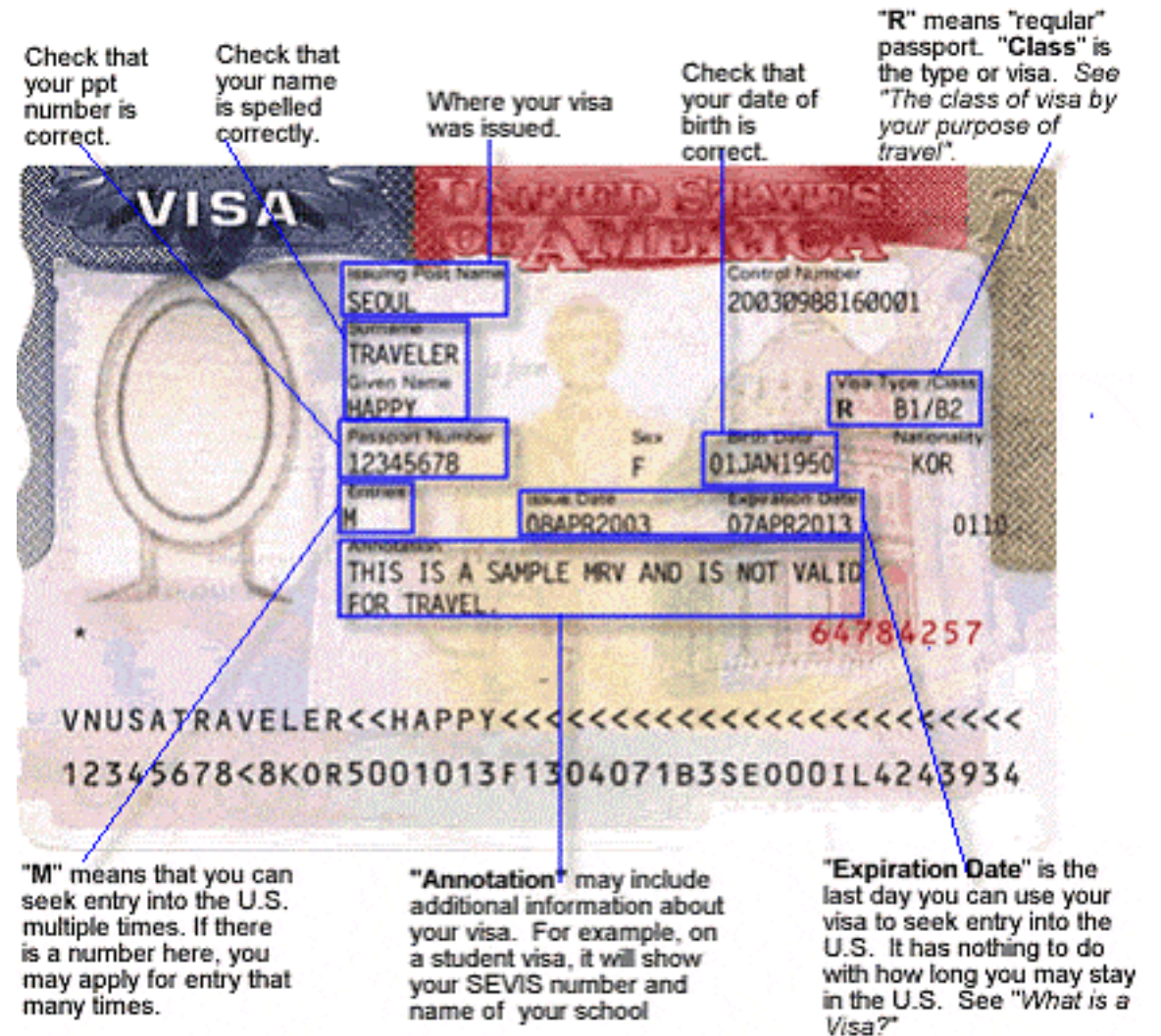
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- The I-20 application form will also require you to upload copies of financial documents. Click on the following links to access these forms:
  - [Personalized Budget](#) that you put together at the beginning of this process.
  - [Statements of Support](#) for each of your sponsors
  - [Financial Documents](#) for any personal funds and/or sponsors' funds.
- Once you have filled in the I-20 Application form and uploaded all the required supporting documents, you are ready to submit your I-20 application!



## Step 7: Apply for an F-1 Student Visa

- When you receive your I-20, you are ready to apply for a non-immigrant F-1 student visa which will allow you to study in the US.
- To apply for an F-1 visa you must submit the following:
  - A [DS – 160](#) online US visa application form
  - A visa application fee (\$185/per attempt)
  - A [SEVIS](#) fee (\$350/valid for 12 months)
- Once you have submitted these forms and fees, you can schedule an appointment at a [US Embassy/Consulate](#) near you.





## Step 8: Arrive in the US

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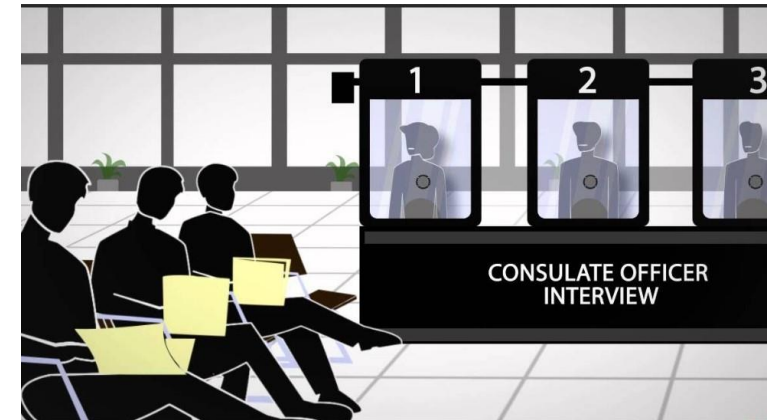
- Once your F-1 visa application is approved, you are ready to book flights to Chicago, IL, USA!
- You should plan on arriving at Chicago O'Hare International Airport by **August 15**.
- Let us know of your travel plans as soon as possible, and we will have a greeter at the airport to welcome you and bring you back to campus.



# Important Dates to Remember

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- **May 15** is the last day to submit deposits, I-20 application, and all supporting documentation.
- **July 31** is the last day to attend a visa interview at your local US embassy/consulate.
- **August 15** is the last day to arrive in the US. This is to ensure that you have sufficient time to adjust to a new context, and participate in international and new student orientations, before the beginning of Fall semester.



ARRIVAL BOARD



# Welcome to Garrett!

We are so excited that you chose Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to pursue your theological education. We look forward to welcoming you into our learning community!

