WELCOME TO TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

International Student Pre-Orientation Information How to get a student visa

Fall 2015

STUDENT VISAS – WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR?

The most common student visas are F-1 and J-1.

F-1

Apply for an F-1 visa if you are a degree-seeking student or visiting student.
 The F-1 student visa program is designed for students who wish to improve their personal and professional skills by completing a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree or visitor program.

J-1

 Apply for a J-1 visa if you are participating in an exchange program between your home university and Truman. The purpose of a J-1 visa program is to promote cultural exchange and understanding.

THE STUDENT VISA PROCESS

- 1. Acceptance! You will receive a form I-20 (for an F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (for a J-1 visa) when you are accepted to Truman. *
- 2. Pay the SEVIS fee (sometimes called the I-901 fee) go to fmjfee.com to pay. Keep the receipt!
- 3. Complete the application for an F-1 or J-1 visa. You will need to go to the US Embassy website for your country to do this.
- 4. Bring copies of all of the materials you submitted to Truman, your passport, your I-20 or DS-2019, and your SEVIS fee payment receipt to the visa interview.
- 5. If you pass the visa interview, the embassy or consulate will keep your passport for a few weeks and return it to you with your F-1 or J-1 visa stamp.

^{*} ISEP students will receive their DS-2019s directly from ISEP, Truman is not involved with that process.

YOUR PASSPORT

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

- Proof of your identity
- Proof of your citizenship
- Must not be expired at any time while you are in the U.S.
- If it expires while you are in the United States, most countries will allow you to renew it at your embassy
- Keep it safe
- Never travel in the U.S. without your passport

Make a copy of your biographical and visa pages to carry with you at all times.

YOUR VISA

YOU ONLY NEED IT TO **ENTER** THE US!

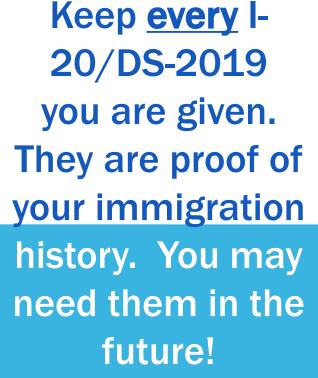
Once you're in the U.S., your visa can expire and you may still be legal.*

HOWEVER, you must maintain your legal status by going to school, keeping your I-20 or DS-2019 up to date (not expired), not working illegally, and obeying all U.S. laws.

*For J-1 students, this is true as long as your category does not change. For more information, contact the International Student Affairs Office.

YOUR I-20 OR DS-2019

- F-1 students have an I-20
- J-1 students have a DS-2019
- Your most recent one cannot be expired
- Don't lose them!
- Don't throw them away!



I-20

	epartment of Justice ation and Naturalization Service		Certificate of Eligibility Status - For Academic	for Nonimmigrant (F-1) S and Language Students (C	tudent Page 1 MB NO. 1653-0038)
	and Instructions on Page 2				SEVIS
his pa	eath institutions age of must be completed and signed in the U.S. by a designated ity Name (surname): (given Name: Middle Name:	school official.	For Immigrat	ion Official User	Student's Copy NO 005868800
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K		02/03/2003	Reinstated, extension		
3.	This certificate is issued to the student named above for: Initial attendance at this school.				
	evel of education the student is pursuing or will pursue	in the United States:			
	The student named above has been accepted for a full conchool, majoring in majoring in				

DS-2019

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mary Site of Activity: 100 E. Normal, Kirksville, MC	, Kirk Building 12	10					
Program Sponsor: 'ruman State University	7			Exchange Visitor Program Num P-1-01227	iber:		
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THE STUDENT VISA PROCESS - INTERVIEW

The interview for your student visa determines whether or not you are legally admissible into the United States, your true motives for wanting to come to the United States, and whether or not you will be able to follow all of the student visa rules.

- Intent all people wanting to enter the United States are assumed to be immigrants (people who never plan to return home) unless they can prove otherwise. You must prove that you intend to study once you enter the U.S. by thoroughly explaining why you chose your program and how you plan to use it in your future.
- What if I want to live in the United States after I complete my studies!? That is fine, the key phrase is that you want to complete your studies. You must prove that you do not intend to work or engage in other non-permissible activities while you are in the United States on a student visa.
- Ties to your home country can be established in various ways, bank accounts, documentation of family business, anything that shows that you will maintain close connections to your home country while you are a student.

THE STUDENT VISA PROCESS - THE RULES

Once you have arrived in the United States, you must continue to follow the rules for student visa holders. Following the rules means that you are "maintaining your student status." If you do not follow the rules, you will not be legally allowed to remain in the United States.

Know Your Responsibilities

Staying Legal Is Up To You!