Immigration Procedures

Apply for your visa and prepare for arrival to the U.S.

November 2, 2021

WELCOME! We will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Introduce yourself in the chat. Please tell us your name and where you are joining from.
Hello!

Amina Kader,
ISSS Storrs

Neena Kapoor,
ISSS Hartford
Hello

Arthur Galinat,
ISSS Storrs
Upcoming Webinars

https://isss.uconn.edu/webinars/

Submit questions & View Meeting Info

Nov 2 - Visa Interview
Nov 9 - Finding Housing
Nov 16 - Important UConn Business and Deadlines
Agenda

ISSS Overview

Getting to Know You

Visa Application Process

Arriving in U.S.
What degree are you starting at UConn?
What UConn campus are you admitted to?
Have you obtained a U.S. Student Visa (F-1/J-1)?
1. **Get Admitted and Request UConn I-20:** [issu.uconn.edu](http://issu.uconn.edu) > “Request I-20 or DS-2019”
   The I-20 form needs to be kept safe, as you’ll need it for your visa interview.
2. **Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee ($350):** [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) > pay online and print receipt for visa interview and travel to U.S.
3. **Complete non-immigrant visa application (DS-160) online and pay visa application fee ($160):** [ustraveldocs.com](http://ustraveldocs.com) Fee payment instructions are different in every country! Some countries subject to Visa Reciprocity Fee in addition to visa fee. (China, India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Iran, South Korea = No Reciprocity Fee)
4. **Schedule an appointment for a visa interview:** This needs to be done at the U.S Embassy or Consulate in the country where you live. Schedule instructions are different in every country! [usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov) and [ustraveldocs.com](http://ustraveldocs.com)
5. **Receive a decision:** At your interview you should receive a decision on your application.
Preparing for visa interview

Documents to bring:
UConn I-20/DS-2019, passport, financial documents, I-901 Fee receipt, other supporting documents

Wait in line outside and then a separate waiting room

Go to interview room/interview counter/window for visa interview
Preparing for visa interview

Common Questions from consular officers:

1. School Name
2. Program Name
3. Funding resources
4. Parents’ jobs
5. Future work after graduation
Visa interview decision

Approval follow up: a slip of paper with passport shipping instruction

Background Checking
- Some students may be subject to Administrative Processing (221g)
- Common for students in sciences
- Technically a refusal, follow all instructions and wait may take 2 weeks - 60 days (or more).

A visa refusal under section 221(g) means the applicant does not establish eligibility for a visa to the satisfaction of the consular officer.

When a consular officer refuses a case under 221(g), she or he will convey whether the applicant is required to provide any further documentation or information, or whether the case requires additional administrative processing.

It is possible that a consular officer will reconsider a visa application refused under 221(g) at a later date, based on additional information or upon the resolution of administrative processing, and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the visa.

Denial
US F-1 visa sample

Expiration date = last date to travel to U.S. with visa.

Travel Document to Enter U.S. only
Entry requirements to the U.S.

• **New changes** to U.S. entry requirements:
  
  – Starting November 8, country-based entry restrictions will be lifted. No entry restriction based on country of travel origin.
  
  – International travelers need to show proof that they are fully vaccinated with an FDA or WHO-approved vaccination for COVID-19.
  
  – Proof of recent negative COVID-19 test also required.
  
  – U.S. Center for Disease Control sets full policy/procedures:
    
    • [Entry rules for Non-Citizen, Non-Immigrant Travelers](#)
Exceptions to COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

• Children under 18 years of age
• Persons with documented medical contraindications to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
• Participants in certain COVID-19 vaccine trials
• Persons with valid visas [excluding B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourism) visas] who are citizens of a foreign country with limited COVID-19 vaccine availability

NOTE: No religious exceptions.

• Other limited exceptions apply, but these are most likely to impact incoming international students, exchange visitors and family.
Preparing for US travel

Buy flight tickets

**Luggage** - what to bring, what to expect when you arrive [https://isss.uconn.edu/prepare-for-arrival/](https://isss.uconn.edu/prepare-for-arrival/) > “What to Bring”

**Documents to have in your carry-on bag:**
I-20 or DS-2019, Passport, Visa, I-901 Fee receipt, Funding Documents, U.S. Address, proof of vaccination and negative COVID test.

**Customs officers**
- Where are you studying? How are you going to get on campus?
- Secondary Inspection, DSO/International Advisor’s contact information
- Canadian Students and B-2: passport and I-20/DS-2019 together at port of entry
Quarantine Requirements

• No quarantine required if you are fully vaccinated, and are verified as such by UConn.
• If you travel to the U.S. with an exception to vaccination requirement (not fully vaccinated, you must attest that you will:
  – Be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after arrival
  – Self-quarantine for 7 days
  – Self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19
  – Be vaccinated within 60 days after arrival (if you will stay longer than 60 days) where possible. Not yet clear if you will need to show proof of scheduled vaccination.
Upon Arrival at UConn

I-94
- Receipt for Arrival
- Print every time you enter U.S.
- Canadian travelers by land may receive paper I-94 in passport

Entry Stamps
- May or may not receive stamp in passport
Submit Arrival Documents to ISSS

Step One: Update Required Personal Information Fields in Student Admin
Step Two: Print Your Most Recent I-94 Admission Record
Step Three: Prepare Electronic Copies of Your Arrival Documents
Step Four: Submit Arrival Documents
Step Five: J-1 VISA ONLY- Submit Medical Insurance Confirmation Record in ISSS Portal.

https://isss.uconn.edu/submit-arrival-docs/
International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) international@uconn.edu
Proposed Outline (remove before session)

- Welcome and Presenters
- Agenda and Learning Outcomes - AG
- Reminder view prior webinars and upcoming webinar schedule - AG
- ISSS Overview - AG
- Student Visa Procedures (slide 9): #1,2 - NK, #3-5 - AK
- Prepare for Visa Interview (Documents and Questions)- AK (slides 10-12)
- Student Experience - Student
- Visa Issued - Explain DS and Expiration Date - NK (slide 13)
- Prepare to travel to U.S. - Documents to prepare - Entry Bans - NK (slides 14-19)
- Log in to ISSS Portal - Demo User Homepage, where to print I-20, Personal info, ISSS communications. - AG
- Questions