Immigration Procedures

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

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.

May 10, 2023
Hello

Arthur Galinat, ISSS Storrs

Dana Foster, ISSS Storrs

Lulu Dong, ISSS Stamford
Introductions
Getting to Know You
Visa Application Process
Arriving in U.S.

https://isss.uconn.edu/
> New Students and Scholars
> Apply for the Visa

Upcoming Webinars and Important Dates
What degree are you starting at UConn?

Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.
What UConn campus are you admitted to?

Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.
Have you already obtained a U.S. Student Visa (F-1/J-1)?
USA Student Visa Process

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, $220):** [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 until 5/31 and then increasing $185 on June 1st):** [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.
USA Student Visa Process

How to apply for nonimmigrant visa

Step 1
Know your visa type

Step 2
Complete your application

Step 3
Pay Your Visa Fee

Step 4
Schedule your appointment

Step 5
Attend your interview

Step 6
Track your passport

For information on the visa interview process, see the videos below:

--- LET'S GET STARTED

What type of visa do you need?

If you are unsure what type of visa you need, please use the Visa Wizard below to help you determine the correct visa type for your purpose of travel.

The type of visa you must obtain is defined by U.S. immigration law and relates to the purpose of your travel. Depending on where you will be applying for your visa, you can use this wizard to find out what visa type may be most appropriate for your purpose of travel. For some countries, you will be redirected to a third-party site that uses its own tools to help you determine what visa type is best for you. Please answer all questions as the applicant.

In the country you selected, visa applications and interview scheduling are primarily facilitated by a third-party company, Applicant Service Centers. Please visit their website at: https://ais.usvisa-info.com for additional information on determining what visa type is best for you and how to apply.
Preparing for visa interview

Documents to bring:
UConn I-20/DS-2019, passport, financial documents, I-901 Fee receipt, DS-160 confirmation page with the barcode, other supporting documents

Wait in line outside and then a separate waiting room - follow all rules regarding electronics and backpacks!

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. Your US address, undergrad dorm, graduate city, not secured yet
5. Parents' jobs
6. Future work after graduation

Research Proposal/Study Plan 研究计划 / 学习计划
(Please Write in English) (请用英文回答)

1) Research Area of Interest and Major: (please explain what your major is and what you plan to study) 你的专业和研究方向：(请说明你的专业和学习计划)

2) Advisor or Potential Advisor: (this means your research advisor not academic advisor) 导师或有意向的导师：(是你的研究导师而不是学术导师)

3) Is your program coursework only? If not, please tell us the name of your research project and give a basic description of your research. 你的学习项目只是授课形式？如果不是，请提供你的专项课题的具体名称和内容

4) Research Funding: (Where is the funding coming from?) 研究专项资金：(你的研究专项资金从哪里获得？)

5) Practical Application of Research: 研究课题的实际应用
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: common reasons, incomplete or inaccurate forms, insufficient financial proof, lack of ties to your home country, criminal history, overstaying your previous visa, etc.
Date: 9/8/2022

Dear Applicant,

We are unable to conclude processing of your non-immigrant visa application at this time, as we require additional information. Your visa application has been refused under 221(g) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act, pending the receipt and review of the information and documents as indicated below. Please be advised that for U.S. visa purposes, including ESTA (see https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov), this decision constitutes a denial of a visa.

Please provide the additional supplemental information specified below:

- Valid Passport
- Notarized Letter of Consent from biological parent(s) and/or court order which grants sole custody including travel decisions
- Criminal History Extract (registration number) from Legal Register Centre http://www.oikeusrekisterioita.fi
- SEVIS Fee receipt (paid at www.fmfee.com)
- Other:

Your application requires additional administrative processing and/or additional clearances. We will contact you when the administrative processing is completed.

Please submit your documents via:

- Email - Send PDF files to Helsinki@state.gov. Attachments must not exceed 3MB.
- Mail - In order to submit the requested documents, please visit http://www.ustraveldocs.gov. Click on “Application Pending Further Action” and then click “This web page” for directions on how to submit the documents via post.
- Hand Delivery – Bring your item to Illinen Puistotie 14 A, Gate A (Consular Gate).

If you fail to respond within one year of this 221(g) refusal, your application will expire.

To Check the Status of Your Application, please visit https://ceac.state.gov/ceac/.

U.S. Embassy Helsinki

Date:

Your application for a nonimmigrant visa has been refused for administrative processing under section 221(g) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act. The visa application will be reconsidered when all documentation is received and administrative processing is complete.

Please send all the information, as given below to KoINVAdmin@state.gov, using the subject line “Passport No………Your Last Name, Your First Name” (example: Passport No. 21234567 – DOE, John). Your application will not be reconsidered until you submit the required information.

The e-mail should have the following separate attachments:

1st attachment: Résumé/CV to include (MSWord / pdf):
   - Detailed résumé/CV, including your professional and academic background.
   - List of publications.
   - List of references from your country of birth/residence.
   - Detailed travel itinerary.

2nd attachment strictly in MSWord with the following information:
   - Research: A detailed abstract of:
     a) Any research/work you intend to conduct in the U.S.
     b) All past and/or current research in all countries.
     c) Your current/past job title and a detailed description of your work.

3rd attachment (.pdf): Letter(s) of support from the financial sponsor.

4th attachment (.pdf):
   - Letter(s) of recommendation from a United States source and/or letter from the U.S. University / employer.
   - Résumé/CV of faculty research advisor.
   - Letter of invitation.

Please complete the DS-5535 form attached with a blue pen, scan and send it to KoINVAdmin@state.gov, using the subject line “Passport No………Your Last Name, Your First Name” (example: Passport No. 21234567 – DOE, John). Your application will not be reconsidered until you submit the requested information.

IMPORTANT:
1. Please note the maximum size of each email attachment should not exceed a file size of 2MB. If required you may attach multiple files, but each file should not exceed the size limit of 2MB.
2. Please avoid incorporating charts, images, table formats, symbols and special characters, when preparing these documents.
3. If any information that does not apply to you, please mention “NOT APPLICABLE” under the respective header. Please avoid vague or incomplete information.
4. Please ensure that you receive an “Auto Reply” when the e-mail is sent to KoINVAdmin@state.gov.
5. Processing takes a minimum of 60 days, or longer. We are unable to provide a specific completion timeline. You do not have to return in person to the Consulate unless you are contacted by the consulate. You will receive an email from the Consulate when the process is complete, and it is required, you will be guided to submit your passport at the VAC.

Please pay your SEVIS Fee at www.fmfee.com. Scan your SEVIS Fee receipt, as proof of payment, to KoINVAdmin@state.gov and request for a new appointment.

Other administrative processing: Please email the following to ConsularKolkata@state.gov:

The status of your case can be tracked at this link: https://ceac.state.gov/ceac/.

Note: Failure to submit the required information within one year will cause your application to expire.

For further inquiries call:
From India: +91-120-4844654 or +91-122-6201000; From U.S.: +1-703-520-2239 or 202-371-7729

[Logo and text]

From India: +91-120-4844654 (or) +91-122-6201000; From U.S.: +1-703-520-2239

[Address]
**Supplemental Questionnaires After Visa Interview**

- All countries visited in last 15 years
- All previous passports held
- Sibling, children, spouse bio info
- All addresses last 15 years
- All phone # and emails last 5 years
- All social media usernames
- All employers last 15 years
## Relatives - Continued

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## Address and Contact Information

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## Employment History

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PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, excluding time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary documentation, providing the information and/or documents required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to supply this information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. If you have comments on the accuracy of the burden estimate and/or recommendations for reducing it, please send them to PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

AUTHORIZED: The information on this form is requested pursuant to Section 212(a) and 221 as required by Section 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 222(h) requires that the records of the Department of State and diplomatic and consular offices of the United States pertaining to the issuance and refusal of visas or permits to enter the United States shall be considered confidential and shall be used only for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States. Certified copies of such records may, in the discretion of the Secretary of State, be made available to a court provided the court certifies that the information contained in such records is needed in a case pending before the court.

PURPOSE: The U.S. Department of State uses the information provided on this form to determine an individual’s eligibility for a U.S. visa. Individuals who fail to submit this form or who do not provide all the requested information may be denied a U.S. visa. Although furnishing this information is voluntary, failure to provide this information may delay or prevent the processing of an individual visa application.

Social Media

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For use by United States embassy or consulate official only. DS-1060/DS-260 Barcode Number: DS-1060/DS-260 Barcode Number

Page 3 of 3
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.

- International travelers no longer require proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter the U.S.
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.

**Customs officers**
- Where are you studying? How are you going to get on campus?
- Secondary Inspection, DSO/International Advisor’s contact information
- Canadian/Bermudian Students and B-2 visa status: Keep your passport and I-20/DS-2019 together at port of entry
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
Immigration Check In With ISSS

Arrival Checklist

Submit Arrival Documents to ISSS

All international students and exchange visitors must submit arrival documents to UConn by the I-20 or DS-2019 start date listed on your form. This is how you formally report your arrival to the school. If you do not submit your arrival documents, your F-1 or J-1 visa status could be cancelled. Here is how to submit your arrival documents to ISSS by completing **ALL 5 Steps** below:

- Step 1 of 5: Update your personal information
- Step 2 of 5: Print your I-94 Record
- Step 3 of 5: Scan or take photos of your documents
- Step 4 of 5: Submit your arrival documents in ISSS Portal
- Step 5 of 5: J-1 VISA ONLY- Submit Medical Insurance Confirmation Record in ISSS Portal

[https://isss.uconn.edu/arrival-checklist/](https://isss.uconn.edu/arrival-checklist/)
Upcoming and Past Webinars

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

Wednesday, 5/24/2023 - Finding Housing at UConn

Wednesday, 6/7/2023 - Bursar's Office and Student Health and Wellness Requirements and Services

Wednesday, 6/14/2023 - Information for International Graduate Students - Graduate School

Wednesday, 6/28/2023 - Making Friends and Finding Yourself at UConn
Important Arrival Dates

Friday, 8/11/2023 - Early Move-in Date for Graduate Students (additional fee)

Friday, 8/18/2023 - Move-in Date for International Graduate and Undergraduate Students who are signed up for International Student Orientation Program through University Orientation.

Friday-Sunday, 8/25-8/28/2023 - Move-in for all international Undergraduates who attended University Orientation over the summer.
Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday, 7/1/2023 - Deadline to submit Health History Form
Tuesday, 8/1/2023 - Deadline to pay fee bill for Undergraduate students
Monday, 8/14/2023 - ITA Orientation (International Teaching Assistant who never taught in the U.S.)
Sunday, 8/20/2023 - Immigration Check-in for Undergraduate students
Monday & Tuesday, 8/21-8/22/2023 - "CISS Welcome & Support Program" for Undergraduate students (includes health screening) who signed up for UConn "International Orientation Program"
Monday, 8/21/2023 - Mandatory International Graduate Student Orientation for Storrs campus students
Thursday, 8/24/2023 - Student Health & Wellness Screening for Graduates students
Friday, 8/25/2023 - Deadline to pay fee bill for GRAD, LAW, LLM
Questions

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)  international@uconn.edu

- arthur.galinat@uconn.edu
- lulu.dong@uconn.edu
- dana.foster@uconn.edu