

Applying for an F-1 & J-1 Student Visa

What To Do When You Go Get Your Visa:

- Dress appropriately (Women: dress, skirt or slacks. Men: shirt, tie, dress pants).
- Be polite when you are talking to the official. Greet the official appropriately (example: “good morning sir” or “good morning madam”) and SMILE!
- Have all your papers organized so you do not waste time looking for things. (It is advised that you bring everything in a labeled folder).
- When you are interviewing, give answers only to those questions that are asked. Do not provide any extra information that is not requested.

What To Bring When You Go To Get Your Visa:

- Bring your passport, valid for travel to the United States. Be sure the expiration date is at least six (6) months into the future.
- Bring your Form I-20 or DS-2019, which is the Certificate of Eligibility form issued by Nazareth College and a **receipt for the SEVIS fee.** **Before you go to the Embassy or Consulate, be sure you sign the I-20 item #11 on page 1 or the bottom of DS-2019 page 1, and pay the SEVIS fee. (SEVIS FEE Instructions attached).**
- Bring your acceptance letter from Nazareth College. It will show the official that you have met the academic requirements of the University and have been accepted based on those qualifications.
- Bring an original bank statement (signed by bank official and has an official bank stamp) and an original affidavit of support from your sponsor. This will prove to the official that you have the finances necessary to support you for the first year of your studies.
- Bring a brochure or course catalogue from Nazareth College to prove to the official the validity of this institution.
- If you have been accepted into a degree program, bring the results of your TOEFL to provide proof of your English language proficiency to the official.
- It is very important that you prove to the official that you are planning to return to your home country upon completion of your studies. A few examples of such proof are: family commitments, ownership of property (papers, lease) or business, employment (letter of acceptance), or proof that you have been accepted into another university.
- Bring a 2” x 2” square photograph against a light background showing full face (without head covering). See the travel.state.gov website for more details.
- You need to fill out the visa application form at the Embassy or Consulate.
- You will be charged a fee and it will vary at different locations.

*Your application for the F-1 or J-1 Student Visa is made at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate with jurisdiction over your place of permanent residence. Without any unusual circumstances, the visa will be issued within a few hours to a few days of application. The visa is not a guarantee to entrance into the United States. The immigration and Naturalization Service has the authority to deny admission at the Port of Entry.