



To study in the US in an academic or vocational institution, applicants must first be certified as potential US students before submitting their applications for visas. The required document is form I-120. It is issued by a school or institution that has been approved by US Citizenship and Immigration Services ([USCIS](#)) and sent directly to the prospective student.

Furthermore, the student applicant must be registered by the school in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System ([SEVIS](#)).

All applicants must have sufficient scholastic preparation and knowledge of English (unless pursuing an English language training program) to undertake a full course of study. If English skills are inadequate, the school must show that it is equipped to offer, and has accepted the student expressly for, a full course of study in the student's language or that special arrangements have been made to tutor the student in English. The consular officer must be satisfied that an applicant will be able, with the assistance of such tutoring, to undertake a full course of study in the US

Academic Student (F-visa)

This category applies to applicants who have been accepted by an approved college, university, seminary, conservatory, high school, middle school, elementary school, or other academic institution, or in a language training program in the United States. The applicant's acceptance is evidenced by a completed certificate of eligibility (form I-20) signed by the applicant and the designated school official.

Effective November 30, 1996, new legal provisions prevent consular officers from issuing F-visas to applicants going to study at public elementary schools or publicly-funded adult education programs, regardless of their ability to pay. Students who apply for F-visas to attend public secondary schools (grades 7 through 12) must show proof of having paid the full, unsubsidized per capita cost of their education. Students are limited to no more than 12 months of public high school in F-status. Foreign students can no longer use the US residence of their relatives for the purpose of attending public high schools. These provisions do not apply to students attending private schools. The provisions also do not effect the dependents of other categories of visas holders visiting the US, such as E, H, L, or J visas.

The school authority must have actually collected the student's reimbursement before a visa can be issued. As proof, the form I-20 must be endorsed to indicate that payment was made. Alternatively, school officials should provide the applicant a notarized statement on school district letterhead, signed by the school superintendent or designee authorized to sign I-20s, which states that reimbursement has been made.



Vocational Visa (M-visa)

This category allows applicants to attend established vocational or other recognized non-academic institutions. For example, students attending culinary schools use this category. The approved institution indicates its acceptance of the applicant through a completed certificate of eligibility (form I-20M). The certificate must be signed by the applicant and the designated school official.

REQUIRED FORMS

- A recent 5cm x 5cm [photograph](#). With white background
- Valid Passport
- Receipt from BANCO REGIONAL SAECA see branches at: www.bancoregional.com.py (U\$ 131 in guaranies)
- I-20 or I-20M
- [DS-156](#) (electronic version)
- [DS-157](#) for men ages 16-45
- [DS-158](#) for all applicants
- Economic solvency

BASIC STEPS

You may see general information on the Consular section of our Web page: <http://paraguay.usembassy.gov/>, select Spanish language, and then go to the Visas subsection.

1. Pay US\$131.00 (payment is made in Guarani) per person for the application at the **BANCO REGIONAL SAECA** (see branches at: www.bancoregional.com.py) Payment for visa application is not reimbursable and has one year validity.
2. Fill out and print Form DS-156. Access the following Web page: <http://paraguay.usembassy.gov/> where such form will be available.
3. Take note of the barcode numbers inserted in both pages of the form.
4. Now you are able to set up your appointment. Go to the page "Schedule an Appointment" or go directly to the link in our Web page: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/default.asp?postcode=ASN&appcode=3> and select "Schedule an Appointment". From that moment on you should follow a series of necessary steps.
5. Come to the appointment with relevant documents, including receipt of payment from the BANCO REGIONAL, visa application form DS-156 filled out on line, printed page of number of appointment confirmation, a 5 x 5 centimeter photo with white background, valid passport and original documents giving proof or evidence of economic solvency and personal, family, professional and/or labor ties in the country of origin. Minors under the age of 14 years of age do not have to come to the interview.
6. All visa applicants must complete form DS-156 electronic version (<http://evisaforms.state.gov>). In addition, men between 16 and 45 years of age must complete form DS-157 and applicants for student visas and exchange program visas must complete form DS-158. These forms can all be accessed at the consular section of the Embassy's website: <http://usembassy.state.gov/paraguay-esp/consular.html>.

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Also you can visit the Department web page: www.travel.state.gov

To pay the SEVIS FEE you can visit the following web page: www.fmjfee.com

