

Advisor: Getting started as an international student at UC Davis. This video will help you understand the first 5 steps to apply for your student visa.

Advisor: Congratulations! You have been accepted to the University of California, Davis, as an international student! Here, in Global Affairs and Services for International Students and Scholars, we would like to welcome you and help you get started.

Student: I'm so excited, but there are so many things I have to do. I have to get my passport and visa, arrange housing, register for classes, and buy my plane ticket. I'm not sure how to get started.

Advisor: There are a lot of things to do and Services for International Students and Scholars, or SISS, is the office at UC Davis with the expertise to help you with all of your visa and immigration needs. Our highly trained student team will help you navigate the complex process of obtaining the documents you need to get a student visa so you can purchase your plane ticket. Once you are here, SISS will help you to feel welcome and answer your questions about maintaining student status and accessing benefits. And if you ask a question we can't answer, we will direct you to other experts on campus who can.

Student: So how do I start the process to get my visa?

Advisor: There are 5 major steps you need to take to get your visa before you can buy a plane ticket. The steps are:

1. Submit your Statement of Intent to Register.
2. Establish your UC Davis network ID.
3. Log on to iGlobal to request an I-20 or DS-2019.
4. Pay the SEVIS Fee.
5. Schedule your visa appointment.

I'm going to explain each step in detail to you now.

Your first step is to access your UC Davis MyAdmissions page to submit your Statement of Intent to Register or what we call SIR - yes

Immediately after you SIR=yes, you will be instructed to establish your UC Davis email account through the pre-enrollment tasks on the MyAdmissions website. Your log in is often referred to as your network identification or ID and your password is sometimes called your Kerberos passphrase or authentication. You will need your Kerberos log in information to access secure sites like your UC Davis email or to register for classes, and to request an I-20 or DS-2019 document to apply for your visa. Once you have established your Kerberos login information, you must wait 3 days...then you can access the SISS student portal called iGlobal to request your document. . If you have questions at this point, contact the Office of Admissions. The email address is available on this slide.

Log on to iGlobal by going to <https://iGlobal.ucdavis.edu> Complete the eform request form for an I-20 or DS-2019 document. You will request an I-20 if you plan to be an F-1 student or a DS-2019 if you plan to be a J-1 student. You will find these eforms form under the Admitted New Student drop down menu in iGlobal.

Student: Do I need anything to fill out the form?

Advisor: Yes, you will need to save digital copies of your passport biographical page, financial documents, your current I-20 or DS-2019 if you are transferring your record, and passport information if you have dependents, like a spouse or children who may be coming to the United States with you. Don't forget to press submit once you complete all the online forms!

Student: What is an acceptable financial document and how much do I need to show?

Advisor: The details about the financial document are outlined in the request form including the required amount and what is acceptable, so just be sure to read that information carefully when you are completing the form.

Student: How will I receive my I-20 or DS-2019 document?

Advisor: Once your I-20 or DS-2019 document has been issued, you will receive an email with instructions to schedule shipping. Follow the instructions on the email to receive your document.

Student: Wow, this is really convenient. Is there anything else I need to know?

Advisor: Yes. This email will also contain your SEVIS ID. SEVIS is an acronym for the U.S. government Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

This system is used by all schools in the U.S. to create and update your I-20 or DS-2019 document and to communicate with embassies, consulates, and at the port of entry when you enter the United States. Each student has a unique identification number, called the SEVIS ID. You will need your SEVIS ID to pay the mandatory SEVIS I-901 fee.

You can access the SEVIS I-901 fee website and pay the fee by clicking on the link on this page.

Remember that if you are a transferring your SEVIS record to UC Davis from another college or university in the United States, you do not need to pay this fee again.

Student: Awesome, thanks! Is there anything else I need to do?

Advisor: Once you have paid the SEVIS I-901 fee you can schedule your visa appointment. Make sure you bring your SEVIS/I-901 fee receipt with you to your visa appointment.

A good place to start for making your appointment is on the U.S. Travel documents website at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/> or click on the picture that says, "Apply for a US Visa" to learn more. You can also look at the U.S. Department of State's website to determine average visa wait times. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html> Click on the Visa Appointment & Processing Wait Times picture to access the website. But remember, these are estimates only and government processing times are always subject to change. Planning ahead is always recommended.

Finally, make sure to review the [visa instructions and procedures](#) at the specific post, or location, where you will be applying. You must have your I-20 or DS-2019, passport and I-901 receipt with you for your visa appointment.

So let's review:

First, you're going to submit your Statement of Intent to Register or SIR through MyAdmissions

Next, you will establish your UC Davis email and network ID

Then, you will log on to iGlobal to request your I-20 or DS-2019

When you receive the email from SISS, you will pay the SEVIS/I-901 fee

Then you will schedule your visa appointment

When you get your visa, you can purchase your plane ticket!

We're sure you have many other questions about placement testing, class registration, tuition payments, housing, and orientation. Many of your questions can be answered by watching the pre-arrival videos located on the UC Davis International Academic English website:

<https://iae.ucdavis.edu/prearrival/index.html>

In the meanwhile, please contact Services for International Students and Scholars at sis@ucdavis.edu if you have any questions. All of us in Global Affairs and at UC Davis look forward to welcoming you to the university community in person soon!

Student: Thanks a lot, you've been really helpful. I can't wait to start school at UC Davis!

Notes to Steve:

I notice that the blue background isn't conducive to seeing the blue links well. Open to suggestions.

I'm not married to my ideas, graphics, etc., so if you have suggestions, you are the expert, suggest.