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Academy One

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Things to do for your US VISA Application and Interview

Part 1: Booking date, paying fees and submitting applications

Step 1: Booking your Visa date.

1. Visit the VFS site <https://www.vfs-usa.co.in> This is the site where you can apply for a US visa and gives all details on US visas. As a student you would be requiring a F1 visa.
2. Pay your VISA fees at an HDFC Bank centre (procedure & requirements are listed on above mentioned site <https://www.vfs-usa.co.in/ApplyForms/RulesAndFees/VisaFees.aspx>) You will have to pay only the Application Fee (MRV Fee) and Service Charge. This would be Rs 7205* + Service charges of Rs 374 (Please check the VFS website. The fees change periodically). On payment of the Visa Application fee, you will be issued a receipt. The HDFC receipt is valid for 1 year.
3. Schedule a VISA interview online (at the VFS site given above). To book the visa do so go to the link ([Apply for a Non-immigrant Visa](#)) given on **Step 2 on VFS site** and follow the steps. Please note that you will have to wait for two days after you have made your payment to schedule an interview. To book a date you would require the bar code number on the HDFC receipt. It takes two working days for this number to get activated.

If a date is not available online, don't worry. Just save your application and exit the browser. You can always get a convenient date by trying later. Dates generally open up only a month in advance.

See here <https://www.vfs-usa.co.in/ApplyForms/FeeDetails.aspx> for list of HDFC branches that accept visa application fees and the VFS office address.

You can book the date with the first I-20 you get. Later, up to 5 working days prior to your actual visa interview, you can change the University name/details if required.

Step 2: Paying your SEVIS Fee

All students have to pay the SEVIS fee. This fee has to be paid at least three (preferably five) working days prior to the actual visa date.

NOTE: You do NOT have to pay the SEVIS fee to book your visa date.

To pay the SEVIS fee you will have to visit the website www.fmjfee.com Here you will have to fill the I-901 form and pay \$200 as SEVIS fee. **Print the receipt (I-901 form) that you get after paying the fees.**

While paying the SEVIS fee that you have to mention the university name. So pay the fees only when you have finalized your university. You can pay the fees up to 5 working days prior to your visa appointment date.

The site would provide you an option for an expedited receipt delivery of the payment receipt at an additional cost of \$35. **You need NOT avail this service.** Just print the online receipt that you receive on confirmation of the payment and that is sufficient enough. You do not require the original receipt.

Step 3: Submitting your documents to the VFS office (this is required for Mumbai Consulate).

After you have booked your visa date and paid your SEVIS fees, you have to submit the following documents at the VFS office.

- Completed DS 156/157/158 forms downloaded from the visa application website.
- Make sure you sign the form and have a 2" x 2" photo pasted on the form. The photo should be front facing on a white background - with your face in the center of the photo (see VFS website for photo specifications).
- A copy of your I-20
- A print of the visa appointment confirmation downloaded from the VFS website.
- A copy of the HDFC receipt.
- A copy of your SEVIS fee receipt print page.

These documents should be submitted at the VFS office at least 5 working days before your interview date.

Part 2: Showing how you plan to finance your education

Step 2: Deciding on your financials.

The most common ways that you can sponsor your education is

- Education Loan
- Funds from family (parents/grand parents/ brother/sister etc)
- Scholarships, assistantships that you have already received from the University.

Educational Loan

If you are planning on availing an education loan, please go and visit your local bank and ask them about the educational loan procedures. Visit 3 to 4 different banks to find out their requirements and interest rates. An educational loan can be obtained from a branch that is closet to your area of residence. The maximum loan offered is Rs 15 Lakhs (SBI and some Private banks like HDFC sometimes offer loans up to Rs 20 Lakhs). You need not have an account with a bank to obtain the educational loan.

Funds from Parents/Family

To demonstrate how much funds are available with your family to support you, please see the document '**Sample Financial Statement**' shown on Page 5. Please prepare a statement similar to this. You do **NOT** have to get this certified from your Chartered Accountant (CA).

You will have to carry proof for all items mentioned in the statement.

Proof of funds include:

- Your Bank Passbooks or Monthly/quarterly Bank Account transaction statements (in case your bank does not issue a passbook). The statements/passbooks should show transactions for the past 3 to 4 months (preferably 6 months)
- A statement of your Demat account showing the shares/mutual funds you own and their current market value.
- All original fixed deposits that you have.
- Originals of NSC/NSS certificates, PPF passbooks etc
- Tax returns for the past three years (at least two years) of your sponsor.
- Three recent salary slips of your sponsor (in case your sponsor is employed)

Your sponsors will have to prepare an affidavit on a Rs 20 stamp paper. See the sample document '**Financial Support Document - Parent letter to Visa Officer**' on Page 4. **You do not need an affidavit, if your parents are your only sponsors.**

Scholarships/Assistantships from the university

If the university has awarded you a scholarship/assistantship and it is already mentioned on your I-20 then its fine. In the university made your funding decision after issuing an I-20, and the funding from the university does not reflect on your I-20, then you will have to carry the official letter from the university indicating their decision. If the department has informed their decision over email/phone please request them to send you an official letter.

IMP: The amount of funds available to you for your education in the form of Loan, Family support and Scholarships/Assistantships should be more than the estimated tuition/fees plus living expense for the entire duration of your education (2 years in most cases).

That is

- Loan
- + Funds from University
- + Money in savings/current account of sponsor
- + FDs
- + Demat (shares) valuation
- + Any other maturing investments (NSC/NSS etc)

Should be definitely MORE than 2 years of estimated expenses (double the amount shown on your I-20)

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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Please see below for

- **Financial Support Document - Parent letter to Visa Officer**
- **Sample Financial Statement**

Below is a format of an Affidavit of Support to be carried with you during your visa interview. Please print this letter on a Rs 20 or Rs 50 Stamp Paper. (If your parents are your only sponsors, then you need not prepare the affidavit on a stamp paper. Just the below statement on plain paper with your parent's signature below should suffice)

Affidavit of Support

Date

To,
Visa Officer,
US Consulate
Mumbai.

I/We, XXXXX XXXXX hereby certify that I/we shall provide all the necessary funding required to support my son's/daughter's (XXXXX XXXXX) education at XXXXXX University.

Please find attached a statement giving the summary of the funds and assets available with me/us. These funds are available without any restrictions to cover all tuition and living expenses of our son/daughter XXXXXX for the entire duration of his/her education.

If you have any questions regarding the same, please do not hesitate to contact me/us.

Yours Sincerely

XXXX XXXXX
Address
Phone
Email

Below is a format of a Sample Financial Statement (do NOT get it certified by a CA)

Summary of Assets

The following statement gives the summary of assets owned by Mr XXXXX (and Mrs XXXXX).

Asset Type	Details	Value in INR	Value in US \$
Savings Accounts	Saving Account in State Bank of India - A/C No: 9999999999	Rs 2,500,00	\$ 5,555
	Saving Account in HHFC - A/C Number: 999999	Rs 3,000,00	\$ 6,666
Shares	Shares in DEMAT Account maintained at HDFC – DEMAT A/C Number: 99999	Rs 4,250,00	\$9,444
Fixed Deposits	Fixed Deposit at Indian Bank maturing on August 15, 20XX	Rs 2,500,00	\$5,555
	Fixed Deposit at UTI Bank maturing on Jan 15, 20XX	Rs 1,25,000	\$2,777
Total		Rs 13,500,00	\$30,000

(Please include any NSC, PPF, Bonds etc that you own in the list above)

Other Fixed Assets

Asset Type	Details	Value in INR	Value in US \$
Property (Residential)	A flat at the following address 123, Main Road Chembur, Mumbai 400071	Rs 2,500,000	\$ 55,555
Land	Undeveloped land at the following address: 456, Main Road Chembur, Mumbai 400071	Rs 8,000,00	\$ 17,666
Total		Rs 33,000,00	\$73,333

The Indian Rupees to US Dollar conversion is done at the rate of 1US \$ = Rs 42

(Prepare an appropriate statement similar to this)