

# STEPS TO OBTAIN A VISA *during COVID-19*

Congratulations - you've been admitted to a graduate program at the School of Engineering & Applied Science (SEAS) at the George Washington University! Now you must begin the process to obtain a visa to study in the United States. Our office will work with you each step of the way to help you obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 form needed to request your F-1 or J-1 visa from the U.S. government. \*Please note: Most students require an I-20 for an F-1 visa. If you require a J-1 visa, use the same steps below to obtain a DS-2019.



## 1 Respond to your admissions offer

Indicate your intent to enroll by clicking the "Reply to Offer" button on your admissions letter.



## 2 Pay the \$250 deposit online

Once we have received your intent to enroll, you will receive an email with instructions for how to pay the \$250 deposit online. This amount is applied towards your first semester's tuition bill and is non-refundable.



Wait 2-3 business days for the system to process your deposit and for our office to confirm payment



## 3 Submit visa documents

Once your deposit is confirmed, our office will contact you by email to request the documents needed to obtain your I-20.

- If you provided these documents with your application, they will be reviewed and you will be contacted only if changes are needed.
- If you did not provide these documents with your application, you will be contacted by email with a list of documents that we need from you in order to begin the visa process.
- All documents should be uploaded to your application portal or sent to [engineering@gwu.edu](mailto:engineering@gwu.edu).



## Wait 5-7 business days

Once your documents are complete and approved by our office, they will be submitted to the GW International Services Office (ISO) to be processed for the creation of your I-20. This process takes approximately 5-7 business days, so please wait. If further information is needed from you, you will be contacted by email.



Wait 5-7 business days



## Electronic I-20 emailed by ISO

Once your I-20 has been created by the ISO, the ISO will contact you by email with an electronic copy of your I-20 with instructions on how to print and sign the document.

### Please note the following:

- Your electronic I-20 will be provided to you in a password protected PDF.
- The password to unlock the PDF will be the last six digits of your GWID.
- Your SEVIS ID number is listed at the top of your I-20.
- Due to COVID-19 provisions set by DHS and SEVP, we will not mail a physical copy of your I-20 to your mailing address.



## Make an appointment for your visa interview

In the same email containing your electronic I-20, you will also receive a Student Visa Application Guide from the ISO with helpful information for scheduling a visa interview at your local U.S. embassy or consulate.

- We strongly encourage you to schedule your visa interview as soon as you receive your electronic I-20 via email.
- Once your interview is complete, all remaining parts of the visa process will be managed by the U.S. government. Our office will not be able to provide any further information regarding your visa status or issuance.
- Due to COVID-19, routine processing at U.S. embassies had been temporarily halted, however, processing has slowly begun to resume. We recommend that you regularly check the website for the closest U.S. Embassy/Consulate in order to monitor any change in status, and to schedule your interview as soon as possible.

### Links for more information:

[I-20 \(F-1\) visa interviews](#)  
[DS-2019 \(J-1\) visa interviews](#)