Preparing for an F-1 Visa Interview

Trinity University - International Programs Office
International Student & Scholar Services
One Trinity Place, Box 100 ~ San Antonio ~ TX ~ 78212-7200 ~ USA
Phone: (210) 999-7313 ~ Fax (210) 999-7305 ~ isss@trinity.edu

Steps:
1. Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy http://www.usembassy.gov to inquire about how to get an F-1 visa.
2. After you receive an I-20 form from Trinity University, follow the U.S. Embassy/Consulate’s instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa. It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.
3. Pay the visa application fee in the amount of $140 USD by following instructions on your local U.S. Embassy's or Consulate's web site.
4. Complete Form I-901 and pay the $200 USD SEVIS fee https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/. Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on the I-20 Form. Be sure to make copies of your payment receipts, and keep it with your other important immigration documents. You must bring the receipt of fee payment with you to the interview.
5. Download and complete the following official forms from US Department of State website: http://www.state.gov/m/a/dir/forms/:
   - DS-156 Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
   - DS-158 Contact Information and Work History for Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant
   - if a male between the ages of 16 and 45, DS-157 Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application

Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:
- A passport valid for at least six months
- Form I-20 (sign and date the form under Item 11)
- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution such as the TOEFL and SAT
- School admission letter
- Completed visa applications (DS-156, DS-158, and, if applicable, DS-157)
- Two 2”x 2” photographs, see prescribed format http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1287.html
- A receipt for the visa application fee
- A receipt for the SEVIS fee. If you have not received an official receipt in the mail showing payment and you paid the fee electronically, the consulate will accept the temporary receipt you printed from your computer. If you do not have a receipt, the consulate may be able to see your payment electronically if your fee payment was processed at least 3 business days before your interview.
- Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.
- Scholarship information (if any)
- Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the United States. The regulations require that the visa officer is satisfied that you intend to depart upon termination of your student status. Consequently, you must prove at the time of visa application:
  (1) Have a residence abroad;
  (2) Have no immediate intention of abandoning that residence; and
  (3) Intend to depart from the United States upon completion of the course of study.

On the day of your visa interview:
- Arrive early and dress appropriately.
- Remain calm. Answer all the Visa Officer’s questions to you openly and honestly.
- Keep it simple, know your stuff, and try to provide the most direct answers that you can.

When visa is received:
- Make sure there are no misspellings and all information on visa is correct.
- A visa allows a foreign citizen coming from abroad to travel to the United States port-of-entry and request permission to enter the U.S. Be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry into the US. The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have authority to permit or deny admission to the US.