



## Visa & I-20 Information St Giles New York City & San Francisco

St Giles San Francisco and St Giles New York City are authorized under Federal law to enroll non-immigrant students. This document will help you see if you need a visa to study in with us in the USA, and help you apply if you do.

### F-1 Student Visa

You will need to apply for an F-1 Visa (Student Visa) if:

- 1) You want to take a course with more than 20 lessons per week
- 2) You want to stay in the US for more than 90 days

Before you apply for your F-1 visa, you will need to get an I-20 form from St Giles. The form is a document which proves that you have been offered a place at a language school and have enough funds to support yourself during your stay.

To get an I-20 from St Giles, you must:

- 1) Complete and send back the St Giles enrolment form (or apply online)
- 2) Pay the deposits
- 3) Submit a bank statement that shows that you (or your sponsor) have enough funds in the bank to pay for all your expenses while in the U.S.

After you have done this, to apply for the F-1 Visa, you must:

- 1) Wait to receive the I-20 from St Giles
- 2) Check all personal details (name, birth date, etc.) on the I-20. Tell us immediately if any changes are necessary.
- 3) Pay the SEVIS fee of \$200. It is non-refundable. You can pay by completing the I-901 form online at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). Make sure to save or print a copy of the receipt.
- 4) Make an appointment at your local USA consulate or embassy. Take your I-20 form and I-901 receipt with you to the appointment.
- 5) The consulate or embassy will contact you to pick up your visa. (Expect to wait several days for this)

The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service recommend that all students contact the US embassy or consulate to make an appointment and apply for the visa 90 days in advance of your arrival to the USA. This is to allow plenty of time to obtain the visa.

## **When don't I need a Student Visa?**

Students taking courses with less than 20 lessons per week, for 90 days or less may still need a visa. Depending on your country of citizenship you may either come to the United States on a Full-Visa Waiver, or on a B-2 Tourist Visa.

You should consult your local USA Consulate or Embassy to determine which type of visa you require.

## **Further Information**

Here are some helpful websites that you might like to look at before you apply:

List of U.S. Embassies and Consulates:

<http://usembassy.state.gov>

SEVIS Fee Online Payment Website:

<http://fmjfee.com>

Passport Photo Requirements:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors\\_info\\_photo.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_info_photo.html)

ICE U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Official SEVIS website):

<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/index.htm>

Visa Wait Time:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors\\_wait.php](http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php)

SEVIS Fee Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.fmjfee.com/help.jhtml>

If you would like any more information, you can also contact us at the addresses below:

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**We look forward to welcoming you to St Giles!**

