

Masters, Visa & American Express

Hi Friends,

As the heat is **on** for taking appointments and pressures mounting, mercury rising, dates getting blocked etc, it's time to know about the procedures involved and latest info etc.

As Sherlock-homes once said "It's elementary my dear Watson", let's get back to elements.

To do **Masters**, you need **Visa** to go to **America** - in a simple **expression**.

What is Visa? : If you are a citizen of India, you need a visa to enter the USA.

There are two categories of visas to USA: **Immigrant** and **nonimmigrant**.

Non-immigrant visas are for people with permanent residence in India but wish to be in the U.S. on a temporary basis - for study, visit, business etc.

Immigrant visas are for people who intend to live permanently in the U.S.

Basically **majority** of the students applying for student visas to USA come under the category of **F1 visa**, which is a **nonimmigrant visa**. (Along with **M Visa** and **J Visa**, which are also nonimmigrant student visas - that's why the name of SEVIS database fee site is named as **FMJfee.com**. Let's discuss all these details in some other info-mail.)

Any student who wants to go for F1-visa should attend for a **personal "One-to-one" visa interview** with a **Consular Officer** (popularly also known as **VO** - Visa Officer).

The **authority** to **issue** or **refuse** visas is vested **solely** in USA Embassy / Consular officers in India. Consular officers have the **final authority** to decide whether the evidence submitted in support of an application is sufficient to establish an applicant's eligibility for a visa. They may request additional confirmation, information or documentation depending on their assessment of each person's situation.

As per the rules most people who apply for nonimmigrant visas must provide evidence that they **do not intend to immigrate** to the United States. It is up to the consular officers at U.S. embassies and consulates to determine eligibility on an individual based on the merits of each case.

Providing the requested documents also does not guarantee that you will receive a visa. Each person's, personal situation is different, so people applying for the same visa may be asked different questions and be required to submit different documents.

Remember Visas are adjudicated individually; each applicant is evaluated on his/her own merits, circumstances, evidence and documents produced.

A visa issued simply indicates that an U.S. consular officer has reviewed your application, and that the officer has determined you are eligible to apply for entry to the country for a specific purpose.

A visa simply allows you to travel to the United States as far as the **Port Of Entry** point (airport or Seaport or land border crossing) and ask the immigration officer to allow you to enter the country.

At the Port of Entry the **immigration officer** or **Port of Entry Official** has the final authority to permit you to enter the United States, and decide how long you can stay for any particular visit. That's why it's known that the immigration officer at the Port Of Entry is the **"Real-Visa Officer"** who will decide your visa status.

Your length of stay in the United States will be decided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's **Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) inspector** at the port of entry.

Student and Exchange Visitor Visas

Types of Student Visas:

Academic studies (F visa): For individuals who want to study or conduct research at an accredited U.S. college or University.

Exchange Visitor (J visa): For individuals who have been accepted to participate in an exchange visitor program in the United States. The "J" visa is the primary visa for educational and cultural exchange programs.

Non-Academic or Vocational Studies (M Visa): For individuals who want to study or train at a non-academic institution in the U.S.

In Next info-mail lets check about appointments for visa interviews.

"May the force be with you".

**Warm regards,
K.Ganapathi Raju**