

Mumbai - How to take F1-Visa Interview appointments

From:

www.visa-services.com

<http://visa-services.com/interview-students-online.html>

Mumbai US Consulate uses a different kind of Visa appointment procedures than one used by New Delhi, Chennai & Calcutta. Let's Examine.

In Mumbai F1-Visa interview appointments will be done by VFS Centers.

VFS - Visa Facilitation Services

VFS Centers Provides visa services for the U.S. Consulate Mumbai and it's **Consular Districts** - which covers residents of the western states of **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Chattisgarh and Union Territories Daman, Diw, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.**

Applicants may apply for nonimmigrant visas at the Consulate after arranging an interview appointment with VFS, Mumbai Consulate off-site interview appointment scheduler.

Applicants may email info@visa-services.com

Or visit www.visa-services.com

Or call **2494-4666**

For additional information on the application and appointment process.

There are **two ways** of **scheduling an appointment**: -

Online Appointment Process:

Select an appointment date online on this website

<http://www.visa-services.com/>,

Courier a Demand Draft for the fees, along with required documentation.

They will then e-mail you your fee receipt and Appointment Letter.

Off-line Appointment Process:

Visit one of VFS Application Centers - at Mumbai, Ahmedabad or Pune

- Get your documents checked, pay your fees, and collect an Appointment Letter.

Let's see each one in detail.

1. Online Appointment Process

Every visa applicant requiring an interview has to first furnish details by submitting a completed and signed visa form along with supporting documentation, and pre-paying the visa fees. Therefore, the online system requires you to select an available date, after which the system will immediately give you an interim confirmation.

You are then required to send by courier a printout of the interim confirmation, along with the necessary documents, a checklist of which is generated by the system.

These papers must reach VFS 30 calendar days before your selected appointment date, failing which your interim appointment will be automatically cancelled. To ensure that your papers reach VFS on time, VFS has tied up with Blue Dart to forward your application to VFS on priority.

The courier fee is included in the visa fee, nothing has to be paid to **Blue Dart** when you hand over the application to them.

If your application is complete in all respects, VFS will e-mail you a fee receipt and Final Interview Appointment Letter.

You now only have to report at the American Consulate General at the appointed date and time.

Blue Dart Acceptance Procedure

- A.** If you are a resident of Mumbai, you can call **Blue Dart** on **28241234**. They will come to your office/residence to pick up the application. This facility is available for pick-ups from locations up to Borivli (Western Line), Ghatkopar (Central Line), and Chembur (Harbour Line).
- B.** If you reside beyond the pick-up limits, you need to submit the application to any of the addresses of Blue Dart noted below.
- C.** Blue Dart staff will perform security check of the envelope and then seal it in your presence. No money has to be paid to Blue Dart.
- D.** Blue Dart will acknowledge receipt with an Air Waybill. Please preserve this paper carefully. If you are issued a visa, Blue Dart will return your passport - they will handover the passport only against surrender of this Air Waybill

1. Your passport will be returned to the current local address of Western India. If you require your passport to be returned to your office address in Western India, please circle the office address on the visa form.
2. Your application must reach VFS 30 calendar days before selected appointment date, failing which the system will automatically cancel your appointment.
3. If your application reaches VFS in time and is in order, VFS will send you an e-mail incorporating a fee receipt and an Appointment Letter. You have to arrive at the US Consulate not earlier than 15 minutes before appointment time noted on the letter.
4. If your application is incomplete or is received late, VFS will contact you by e-mail.

Blue Dart offices accepting US Visa applications across the counter

Maharashtra:

Thane - S-12 Devprayag Bldg., Opp Thanawala Garage, B M Road, Panchapakhadi, Thane (West) Thane-400602. Tel: 25400629/25400753

Chembur - Trishul, Plot No 114, Near Jain Mandir, R.C.Marg, Mumbai-400071
Tel: 25280632/25280389.

Borivali - Durga Palace, Ground Floor, Karter Road, 5, Borivali (E) Mumbai - 66.
Tel: 28077889/80

Pune - Near Railway Station, 9-13, Nityanand Complex, 247/A Bund Garden Road.
Pune - 411001. Tel: 6120638/3706

Pune - Deccan, CTS 41/ 3, Shanti Sadanb Tarte Colony, Opp Kalmadi Erandawane.
Pune - 411004. Tel: 4008326 /4004557

Aurangabad - Harsvardhan complex, Near Satish Petrol Pump, Adalat Road,
Aurangabad - 431001 Tel: 0240-2335272 / 2354459 / 2340145

Nagpur - 179, North Ambazari Road, Andhra Association, Nagpur - 440010
Tel: 0712-2544020 / 21 / 26

Nasik - Nissan Couriers, 4, Vishwadhara Apartments, Trimbak Road, Nasik - 422007
Tel : 351539,362429

Madhya Pradesh / Chattisgarh:

Indore - B-2, Industry House, 15, A.B. Road, Indore -452001. Tel:
0731-2548310 / 25068833 / 25076312

Bhopal - 229, Nirmal Bhavan, Zone 1, Maharana Pratap Nagar,
Bhopal-462011 Tel - (0755) 552922,554431

Raipur - C/O Chattisgrah Express, Next to Central Bank of India , New
Bombay Market, Raipur - 492001. Tele no -0771 - 5030054.

Gujarat:

Anand - Behind Sunil Chambers, Station Road, Anand - 388001
Tel : 02692-50490

Ankleshwar - G-27, Uma Complex, Opp.Bank of Baroda, Old Nh No.8. Ankleshwar -393002
Tel : (02646) 50426/25334

Baroda - 3, Shri Hari Apartments, Flat no 3, Behind Express Hotel. Alkapuri,
Baroda - 390005 Tel : (0265) 344231/358510

Rajkot - Parabhav Services,109, Star Plaza, Near Ravi Hotel. Phoolchap Chowk.
Rajkot- 360001 Tel: 0281-693366/454859

Surat - S -120/121, Belgium Square, Opp. Liner Bus Stand, Ring Road, Surat - 395002
Tel : (0261) 27421640/130/973

Vapi - Raj Complex, G. Flr, Off.Nh No. 8, Plotno. 8/18 Gidc. Vapi - 396195
Tel : (0260) 425273/429499

Goa:

Panaji - G-6 , Ground floor, Citi Centre, E D C Complex, Patto Plaza, Panaji - 403001
Tel: 427768, 435959

2. Off-line Appointment Process

US Visa **Application Centers** are located at:

Mumbai	Ahmedabad	Pune
Tirupati Apartments, Basement 3A Bhulabhai Desai Road, Opp Mahalakshmi Temple, Mumbai- 400026. info@visa-services.com Counter Timings: 0800-1700 hours	Shri Ambica Mills, Gujarat Chambers Building, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009. info@visa-services.com Counter Timings: 0800-1300 hours & 1400-1500 hours	106 Sohrab Hall, 1st Floor Sassoon Road, Behind Pune Station Junction Pune - 411001. info@visa-services.com Counter Timings: 0800-1300 hours & 1400-1500 hours

Applications accepted on 1st come, 1st served basis.

Applications will be accepted Monday to Friday, except Consulate holidays

Please Note: VFS says they are required to close their counters on time in order to complete the data-entry and back office processing work. Depending on the number of applications received, on certain days they may be constrained to restrict entry much before closing time. Hence it's better to be there as early as possible and try to avoid to be there after 3.00 P.M.

Note : The visa unit of the **US consulate is closed** to the public on **2nd and last Friday** of each month, **but the US Visa Application centers are working to accept applications.**

Procedure

You or your representative must visit a US Visa Application Center with

1. **Passport**, valid for minimum 6 months beyond travel.
2. **Photocopy of following passport pages** (passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond travel)
 - 2 copies of **first** and 1 of **last page** for each applicant.
 - A copy of pages containing "**observations**" or "**remarks**".
3. **Form DS-156** in original, completed and duly signed by each applicant.
4. **Form DS-157** in original by each **Male applicant only**.
Note: Female applicants need not submit this DS-157 form.
5. **Form DS-158**.
6. **One 2 x 2 inch photograph**, which is not more than 6 months old.
7. **Fee:** Each application must contain the following:
 - A. **Demand Draft for Visa Application Fee: Rs. 4400/-**
Favoring "**American Consulate General, Mumbai**" payable in Mumbai.
 - B. **Logistics fee: Rs 441/-** in **Cash** or **DD** Favoring "**VFS a/c - US Visa**" Payable in Mumbai.

Note 1: Demand Drafts can be drawn on **nationalized banks** or **local branches of foreign banks**. Demand Drafts drawn on **Co-operative Banks** are **not accepted**.

Note 2: Write your **name** and your **passport number** on the **back of the demand drafts**.

Note 3: Demand Drafts can be **purchased** at all Application Centers also.

8. Photocopy of Individual Form I-20

The Application Center will retain your original visa application form and return your passport. After paying fees you can schedule your appointment

Important: Applicants may require longer lead-time during peak seasons and holiday seasons, and therefore are advised to take an appointment as early as possible.

3. At Consulate

From:

<http://visa-services.com/interview-students-online.html>

Please report not earlier than 15 minutes prior to the appointment time. Remember to carry your passport, Appointment Letter and Fee Receipt.

Supporting Documents for F1 Applicants

1. Form I-20 in original.
2. Evidence of your financial resources (**see below**).
3. Original Bachelor degree or high school diploma along with mark Sheets.
4. Relevant test scores, e.g. TOEFL and SAT, GRE, GMAT or LSAT.
5. Relevant diplomas or certificates, e.g. computer certification.

A note on Financial Resources

At the interview, the Officer will need to see:

- A. **Liquid assets** sufficient to pay **for the entire 1st year** of your education.
- B. **Readily available funds** to cover the **remaining year(s)** of your study.

To establish your financial resources, **you should bring** to the Consulate the **following**:

- I. Original tax returns for the past 3 years (specifically Form 16).
- II. Original bank records for the past 3 years, and/or fixed deposit statement of your parent or sponsor. (Although anyone may sponsor your education, the Consular Officer will be more convinced if your parent or close family member finances your studies)
- III. If you receive a scholarship, it is noted on the I-20 and favorably considered by the Officer.

The US Consulate **discourages** applicants from bringing property deeds or certified copies of financial documents.

Please note : If you do not carry the required documents mentioned above, then your visa may be denied.

4. Things Not 2 carry 2 Consulate.

IMPORTANT:

Security regulations at The American Consulate General, Mumbai, **do not permit you to carry the following into the Consulate** for an interview:

All battery operated or electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, digital diaries, pagers, cameras, audio/video cassettes, compact discs, MP3's, floppies, lap tops, palm tops or portable music players. All ladies hand bags/purses.

Only a small ladies pouch in hand will be permitted.

All bags such as travel bags, back packs, brief cases, suitcases, leather, jute or cloth bags and zip folders - Not Permitted.

Only a plastic bag containing your application related papers would be permitted.

Any food item. Sealed envelopes or packages. Cigarettes / cigars / match boxes / lighters. Any sharp object such as a pair of scissors, pen knives or nail filers not permitted.

NOTE: There is no facility at the Consulate to store prohibited items. You will have to make alternate arrangements to keep the same before entry into the Consulate.

5. Inside the US Consulate

1. You will first clear security check.
2. You will have to submit your passport and Form I-20 at the Intake counter - you will get a [pink token](#).
3. You will then have to proceed to **counter No 1** with your passport and [yellow envelope](#). At counter No 1 your [finger prints](#) will be taken, **first of your left index finger** and **then of your right index finger**. The [passport](#) and the [envelope](#) will be **retained** by the officer and [one portion of the pink token will be handed over to you](#).
4. You will then be [seated](#) in the [visa hall](#). When your token number is called, you will have to go to the assigned window to be interviewed by a US Consul.

6. After Interview

From: <http://visa-services.com/after-interviewFM.html>

If Visa is granted, your passport will be returned to you within 3/4 working days after your personal interview at the American Consulate.

Your passport will be delivered to you at home address noted on the visa form unless you have indicated that you require the same to be returned at your office address.

At the time of delivery of your passport you will be **required to handover** the **Airway Bill issued to you by Blue Dart** when collecting your application pack. Blue Dart will not deliver the passport if the Airway Bill is not surrendered.

It is not essential for the passport holder to receive the passport in person, however the receiving person **must have** the pick up Airway Bill.

7. Track your Passport on-line.

From: <http://visa-services.com/trackonline.html>

After your Personal Interview, your passport will be couriered to you, within 3/4 working days.

However, in the rare instance that you haven't received your passport within the stipulated period, you can track your passport online using the facility available at the above link.

Key in your passport number and click on 'GO' to know your passport status.

8.If Visa is refused

If you intend to **re-apply**, you can do so after atleast **3 working days from the date of refusal**. (We will be discussing the refusals shortly.)

Any mistakes or errata in info, kindly bring to my notice, so that I will be able to make immediate necessary changes.

Hope this helps one and all and clears all doubts in applying to Mumbai consulate for student visas. Students kindly follow the procedures mentioned in this info mail and if they need any further clarification, contact visas services people and Mumbai consulate. Only they can give authentic info.

For general information, visit us at www.visa-services.com or e-mail us at info@visa-services.com or call (022) 2352-4666. For specific inquiries in person, **visit the Consulate** between **8:30 and 11:00 am** or dial **022-2363-7407/08** or e-mail at mumbainiv@state.gov

Hope this helps One and all.

K.Ganapathi Raju