



APPLICATION FOR THE FORM I-20 FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

U.S. immigration regulations state that if you are coming to the U.S. to study full-time, you should do so with a F1 student visa. In order to get a student visa, you will need to be issued an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility from AMDA. The Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status is better known as “the I-20.” This 3-page form is issued by AMDA and other schools that are authorized by the Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to accept international students. You will need the I 20 in order to apply for a student visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in your home country, where they will decide whether to issue you an F-1 visa (except citizens of Canada and Bermuda, who do not need to apply for a F1 visa but do need the I 20 certificate.)

Complete this application if you are:

- Outside the U.S.
- Currently in the U.S., but will be returning to your home country to apply for a F1 visa before attending AMDA

Contact us if you are:

- Currently in the U.S. in F1 student status and attending another school
- In the U.S. in another visa status and need to change immigration status
- In another visa status that allows for full-time study

I-20 Application required documents:

- 1. Application for the Form I-20** - complete and return (2 pages)
- 2. Sponsor's Affidavit of Support:** if financially responsible for the student's tuition and living expenses, each sponsor/parent must complete and sign an Affidavit of Support.
- 3. Financial Documents** - each signed Sponsor's Affidavit of Support must be accompanied by financial documents that show proof of funds for the first two semesters (in a bank account) and evidence of where future years will come from. Following is a list of generally acceptable supporting documents:
 - a. Bank statements
 - b. A letter indicating current account balance(s) signed by a bank officer. It must be on official letterhead, with bank seal.
 - c. A letter or statement from brokerage houses or other financial institutions that show the value of cash or other liquid assets held by the parent or sponsor.
 - d. A letter or statement of earnings from the parent(s)' or sponsor(s)' employer with recent pay stubs, if available. This must be on official letterhead, signed and dated by the appropriate employer representative, such as Human Resources or Payroll.
 - e. A letter from the parents' or other sponsor(s)' attorney and/or accountant.
 - f. Proof of loan approval from your loan institution

NOTE: Documents must be in English; otherwise, a translation must also be provided.

4. Copy of applicants passport

EMAIL the completed I-20 application and required supporting documents to:

NY:
International Student Affairs
InternationalNY@amda.edu

LA:
International Student Affairs
InternationalLA@amda.edu



Application for the Form I-20

SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION (USE NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

LAST NAME OR FAMILY NAME	FIRST OR GIVEN NAME	MIDDLE NAME
STREET ADDRESS		CITY
		STATE OR PROVINCE
COUNTRY	MAIL OR ZIP CODE	TELEPHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)	SEX: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐ OTHER
CITY OF BIRTH AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	

SECTION 2: DEPENDENT INFORMATION (IF THIS APPLIES TO YOU)

Complete this section if you have a spouse or children who will accompany you for the duration of your studies in the U.S. List each person's legal name as it appears on the passport. If you have no dependents, proceed to next section.

Dependent 1

LAST NAME OR FAMILY NAME	FIRST OR GIVEN NAME	MIDDLE NAME
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)	AGE
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	RELATIONSHIP TO YOU: ☐ SPOUSE ☐ CHILD ☐ OTHER	SEX: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

SECTION 3: PROGRAM INFORMATION

Intended Start Term: ☐ Fall/Year: _____ ☐ Spring/Year: _____ ☐ Summer/Year: _____

Campus and Program Choices:

☐ New York Campus Programs

- ☐ Studio Conservatory ☐ Integrated Conservatory ☐ Dance Conservatory ☐ Acting for Camera
☐ Advanced Certificate

☐ Los Angeles Campus Programs

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ☐ AOS Acting | ☐ AOS Dance Theatre | ☐ AOS Musical Theatre | ☐ BA Theatre Arts |
| ☐ BFA Acting | ☐ AOS Acting for Camera | ☐ BFA Music Theatre | ☐ BFA Performing Arts |
| ☐ MA in Theatre | ☐ BFA Dance Theatre | ☐ BFA Vocal Performance | ☐ BFA Film and Television Arts |
| ☐ MFA in Writing for Theatre and Media | | | |

*If you are a NY Conservatory or LA AOS graduate, choose from:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Alumni BFA Acting | ☐ Alumni BFA Dance Theatre |
| ☐ Alumni BFA Music Theatre | ☐ Alumni BFA Performing Arts |

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Following is the current cost of attendance at AMDA per academic year. Tuition and housing costs are subject to increases in subsequent years.

	Summer 2026		Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Summer 2027	
CAMPUS:	New York	Los Angeles	New York	Los Angeles
Tuition & Fees	\$46,928	\$46,928	\$49,500	\$49,500
Housing	\$14,800	\$14,800	\$15,800	\$15,800
Living & Misc Expenses ¹	\$8,300	\$8,300	\$10,600	\$10,600
Books and Supplies	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Health Insurance ²	\$1,240	\$1,240	\$1,240	\$1,240
TOTAL	\$77,214	\$77,214	\$78,340	\$78,340

NOTES:

¹Please note that the "Living and Misc Expenses" listed above will not be paid to AMDA. The US government requires that you have the funds available for not only tuition and housing but also general living and miscellaneous expenses (food, transportation, etc...) and have been estimated for I 20 purposes.

²Health care is estimated and will depend on insurance provider and level of coverage chosen. Please note that health insurance coverage in the US is required.

Please list below the amount of funds you will have and the source of those funds.

Source of Funds	First Year Available by Start Date	Second Year Projected	Third Year (BFA Students Only) Projected	Fourth Year (BFA Students Only) Projected
Applicant	\$	\$	\$	\$
Parent(s) or Guardian(s)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sponsor #1	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sponsor #2	\$	\$	\$	\$
Government Support	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Provider	\$	\$	\$	\$
AMDA or Other	\$	\$	\$	\$

Signature of Student

I, (print name) _____ fully understand the minimum amount of money for tuition costs and living expenses to attend AMDA and I verify that a minimum of US\$ _____ will be available for the each year of my studies. I certify the information provided on this form to be true and correct.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

DATE (MONTH / DAY / YEAR)



Form I-20 Sponsor's Affidavit of Support

SECTION A: INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Each sponsor, if more than one, must complete this form.
- The Affidavit is the sponsor's sworn promise made to the school and the U.S. government that you will contribute a specific amount of money for each year that the applicant studies at AMDA.
- Sponsor must provide financial evidence showing proof of funds for the first 2 semesters (bank statement, letter from bank showing an amount on deposit) and evidence of where additional year(s) will come from (a letter on company letterhead stating current income, a copy of income tax returns, a tax form from employer that indicates annual income, investments, etc..)
- Please note we do not accept screenshots or photos of financial documents
- Any document from a bank must show an official bank seal. Any document not in English must be translated.

SECTION B: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

US\$ _____ to _____
(AMOUNT IN US DOLLARS) (PRINT SPONSOR'S FIRST AND LAST NAME) (PRINT STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME)

SECTION C: SPONSOR INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT _____

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

SPONSOR'S EMPLOYER _____

ANNUAL SALARY, US \$ _____

OTHER INCOME, US \$ _____

SPONSOR'S EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES IS ATTACHED ☐ YES ☐ NO

I swear that the information I have provided above is true and correct.

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR _____

DATE (MONTH / DAY / YEAR) _____

APPLYING FOR THE U.S. VISA

AFTER YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR COMPLETE I-20 APPLICATION

We will process and send out your I-20 within one week (provided you have been officially accepted and submitted the required first payment).

We will send you an email to confirm the I-20 has been sent and this email will include the SEVIS ID # and instructions on how to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. This is a US government fee that must be paid for the I 20 certificate (please note this is different from the visa application processing fee). Be sure to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee at least 3 days before the visa interview date (or entering the US for citizens of Canada and Bermuda).

After receiving the I-20 from AMDA

1. Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
2. Have color passport photos taken; you will need at least one for the visa application. Read the photo requirements on <https://travel.state.gov>.
3. Apply for a multiple-entry, F-1 Student visa. Information and a link to the online DS-160 visa application are at <https://travel.state.gov>.
4. Remember that completing the DS-160 application is only the first step. Consult instructions on the web site of the embassy or consulate where you intend to apply, as each office's instructions may vary.
5. After completing the DS-160 application:
 - » Print and keep the DS-160 barcode page (no need to print entire application).
 - » Schedule a visa interview appointment in your country of residence. Note that wait times for interview appointments vary by location, season, and visa category.
 - » Pay the visa application processing fee, if required to do so before the interview AND KEEP THE RECEIPT of payment.
6. Gather documents for the visa interview:
 - » Your passport, valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of travel
 - » Your Form I-20 from AMDA
 - » Your SEVIS I-901 fee receipt
 - » Your Form DS-160 confirmation page (the one with the barcode)
 - » The receipt of payment for your visa processing fee, if required to pay before visa interview
 - » One printed passport photo in case the photo upload with your on-line application failed
 - » Additional documents in the event they are requested. Again, review the instructions on the web site of the embassy or consulate where you will apply.
 - a. Proof of academic preparation such as transcripts/academic records and diplomas from previous schools attended
 - b. Evidence of ties to your home country, such as property, family business, etc. This is very important for a successful visa application
 - c. Proof of how you will pay all educational, living and travel costs (i.e., the financial evidence packet you had sent to AMDA when applying for the Form I-20)
 - d. Your English language proficiency score report (Cambridge, ELASH, IELTS, TOEFL)
 - e. AMDA Acceptance letter

VISA INTERVIEW OUTCOMES

Please notify the appropriate International Student Office your visa appointment date and after visa appointment!

• NY Students: InternationalNY@amda.edu • LA Students: InternationalLA@amda.edu

If your visa is approved – You may get the visa stamp immediately or they may hold your passport and send it to you several days later.

As soon as you get the visa, review it for accuracy. Make sure it is the correct visa (F1) and that your name

is spelled properly. Occasionally they will make errors, so it's important to check and have them corrected before you travel.

Please scan and email a copy of your visa to the appropriate International Student Affairs Office:

If your visa is denied - Request something in writing giving the reason for denial and contact the appropriate AMDA International Student Affairs Office right away for advice. The vast majority of students are successful in obtaining a visa.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

About F-1 visa status:

- You can arrive up to 30 days before the program start date and must depart within 30 days after the program end date (if you are transferring to another AMDA campus, another school or applying for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training you will have to apply for an Extension of Stay with US Citizenship and Information Services or depart the US and reenter with a new I 20 certificate - the International Student Office will advise you of this during your studies).
- You cannot change your program of study/major or transfer to another school during your first 2 semesters of study. You would need to depart the US and reenter with a new I 20 certificate.
- You must move forward in the US educational system (certificate, associate, bachelor, master, etc..).
- You must have the funds to support yourself for the duration of your studies. You will be eligible to apply for on-campus employment (PLEASE NOTE THAT ON CAMPUS JOBS ARE LIMITED AND NEVER GUARANTEED SO PLEASE BUDGET YOUR FUNDS ASSUMING YOU WILL NOT HAVE ANY INCOME FROM AN ON CAMPUS JOB) and upon completion of a conservatory or degree program, you may be eligible to apply for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), which gives you work authorization for up to 12 months to work in jobs related to your field of study.
- You may bring a spouse or child, who would apply for an F-2 visa. Please complete the dependent information on the I 20 application and include a copy of each dependents passport and additional proof of funds for dependent(s) living expenses.
- You are responsible to stay in good status as an F-1 student in order to remain in the U.S. legally. You must follow the attendance policy and the rules for extending your studies, stay or transferring to another school.

CAUTION

- » DO NOT enter the U.S. using a B-1, B-2 or B-1/B2 visa or using ESTA. If you enter the US as a tourist you will have to apply to change your immigration status to F1 student. This process is costly and takes a long time (over a year) during which you cannot study. Do not listen to those who say it's easier to enter the U.S. as a tourist and change your status later. IT IS NOT TRUE.