

## ***Steps to Obtain an F-1 International Student Visa***

### **1. Select a Major or Program of Study(transfer) you can complete at Cañada College**

<http://www.smccd.edu/factbook/imgfile/27-AssociateDegree.pdf>

<http://www.smccd.edu/international/english/about.php>

### **2. Apply to Cañada College by submitting the following documents:**

- a. Application for Admission – <https://smccd.edu/international/apply/index.php>
- b. Bank Verification of Funds –Bank statement indicating the equivalent of \$18,000 USD.
- c. Proof of English Language Proficiency –  
<http://www.smccd.edu/international/english/documents/englishLanguageProficiency.pdf>
- d. Transcripts – Academic records from previous schools. Documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by an English translation.  
<http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/forms/docs/InternationalTranscripts.pdf>
- e. Copy of a valid passport
- f. Submit \$50 application fee –  
<http://www.smccd.edu/international/english/documents/SMCCCDCreditCardForm2.pdf>

### **3. Evaluating your application**

Cañada College can use emailed documents to evaluate your application. If you meet the admissions requirements, we will email you an acceptance letter. In order for Cañada College to issue your I-20 form we do require that you mail all original application documents.

### **4. Mailing your I-20 form**

Once your original documents are processed, your I-20 form (certificate of eligibility for non-immigrants to study in the United States) will be created in SEVIS. The I-20 form will be mailed to you. You must then take the I-20 form with you to your U.S. Consulate appointment.

### **5. Apply for the F-1 Student Visa**

- a. Obtain a valid passport from your government agency.
- b. Make an appointment with the U.S. Consulate at the U.S. Embassy nearest you.
- c. Complete the I-901 form and pay the SEVIS fee. <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>
- d. You must bring the following documents to your appointment with the U.S. Consulate:
  - Original I-20 form that you received from Cañada College
  - Verification/receipt of your SEVIS fee payment
  - A copy of your Bank Verification of Funds
  - Other supporting documentation as requested by the U.S. Consulate
- e. If an F-1 visa is granted, the U.S. Consulate will place a visa stamp on your passport and return the I-20 form to you.

### **6. Entering the United States**

- You may not arrive in the U.S. more than 30 days before the program start date noted on your I-20.
- At the Point of Entry:
  - i. An immigration officer will ask for your passport and stamp your I-20 form
  - ii. You must complete an “arrival/departure” I-94 card (white card)
  - iii. Your documents will be reviewed, and your picture and fingerprints taken.
- Please come to the Cañada CIUS office in Building 5, Room 230, with your F-1 visa as soon as possible.

***Cañada College, Center for International and University Studies***

***4200 Farm Hill Boulevard Redwood City, CA 94061***

***+1.650.306.3481***

***[mihelcicm@smccd.edu](mailto:mihelcicm@smccd.edu)***