

OBTAINING A VISA to the USA

<https://no.usembassy.gov/> (*usa.no* will get you there too...)

STEP 1: OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

After applying to a university in the USA, either through NTNU or on your own, you will be notified if you have been accepted or not.

If you have been accepted, the university will send you a **CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (COE)**. This certificate is either form **I-20** or **DS-2019**. You can think of it as an acceptance letter **certifying that you are eligible** to study in the U.S.A.

Step 1A: [Check status of Visa Services at the U.S. Embassy in Norway](#) . See also [service notices](#).

STEP 2: PAY THE SEVIS FEE AND SCHEDULE A VISA INTERVIEW

After you receive the Certificate of Eligibility you should **follow the instructions from your host university**. For example:

- **pay the SEVIS fee** on-line at www.fmjfee.com; Amount: \$220/350 for J-1/F-1. For more information, please see <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq>
For information on how to pay the visa fee please see: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/no/no-niv-paymentinfo.asp>

- **schedule a visa interview**. Until Dec. 31, 2022 the embassy may **grant waivers of the in-person interview requirement** for students, professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, or specialist, with **certain exceptions**. ***In other words, you may not have to take the trip to the American embassy in Oslo.*** It seems that, **for now**, it will be possible to apply for an interview waiver in 2023.
- **Apply for a visa**. See <https://no.usembassy.gov> click on **"I need – a U.S. Visa"**. **Follow instructions**.

TIP 1: On form **DS-160** where it asks: *"Where will You Stay in The U.S.?"*: Don't have an address yet? Just put the **address of the university you will be attending**.

TIP 2: A student visa may be issued **no more than 120 days prior to the start of your program**. See FAQ: Q.2 "How early should I apply for my student visa?" on <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/no/no-gen-faq.asp>
See also <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

TIP 3: In order to make an appointment for a visa interview you must have:

- received your **Certificate of Eligibility**
 - paid the **SEVIS fee**
 - filled out the **DS-160 form** and paid the visa **application fee**
- TIP 3a:** some have had trouble filling out the **DS-160** on a MAC. Best using **Firefox or Explorer or Chrome**. Website does **NOT support Safari**

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If you must go to the embassy, please plan to spend several hours at the embassy for all the procedures including outdoor wait time for the security check. Bring as little as possible with you! **TIP1:** With an early appointment there will be fewer people ahead of you in line so the chance of your being delayed is less. **TIP2:** Directions to embassy? see [embassy web site](#).*