

1. What is a non-immigrant visa?

A non-immigrant visa is an immigration document that permits a citizen of a foreign country to enter into the U.S. for a temporary period of time. It also determines what a non-immigrant is allowed to do while in the U.S. There are many different types of visas, depending on the reason for coming to the U.S. For instance, if your primary purpose for entering the U.S. is to study, it is in your best interest to get an F-1 (student) visa. For more information about obtaining a visa, please visit http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html.

2. Does Kaplan issue F-1 visas?

No. All visas are issued by the U.S. Department of State at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad.

3. How do I get an F-1 visa?

You must first apply to Kaplan. If eligible for admission, Kaplan will issue an "Initial Attendance" Form I-20. After paying the SEVIS I-901 fee online at www.fmjfee.com, you will then need to visit the U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad to get an F-1 visa. For more specific information, please see Kaplan's document called "Instructions for F-1 Student Applications."

4. What Embassy do I visit?

In general, you are expected to visit the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in the country for which you hold citizenship (i.e. the country that issued your passport). If your country does not have a U.S. Embassy/Consulate or if you are currently located in a different country, you should contact the closest U.S. Embassy to see if they can accept your application for an F-1 visa. To learn more about your local U.S. Embassy, visit <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.

5. What documents must I present to get an F-1 visa?

Please see Kaplan's document called "Instructions for F-1 Student Applications" for a complete list of documents required to get an I-20 from Kaplan. For a list of items required by the U.S. Embassy/Consulate, visit the website for your local U.S. Embassy at <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.

6. How long does it take to get a visa?

The average wait time varies from country to country. Visit http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php to confirm how long it takes at your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate.

7. For how long will my visa be valid?

Kaplan does not issue your visa and therefore cannot confirm for how long it will be valid. Instead, you should confirm this information with your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate.

8. Can Kaplan help me complete the government's application for a visa?

No. Students are solely responsible for completing all government documents.

9. What is the likelihood that I will be approved an F-1 visa?

Kaplan does not issue visas and therefore cannot confirm the likelihood of approval. However, you should note, that visa issuance is not guaranteed.

10. What happens if I am denied a visa?

If denied your visa, you should ask the Consular Officer the reason for denial before you leave the Embassy. You have the right to request the denial in writing as well. If the reason for denial was caused by a mistake on your I-20, Kaplan can revise your I-20 and write a support letter to help you get your visa during a second interview. If no reason or a different

reason is stated, Kaplan will likely be unable to assist you further. In most cases, the government's decision is final and there is little Kaplan can do to change their decision.

11. What is a DSO?

The DSO, or Designated School Official, is the school administrator responsible for issuing I-20s and advising F-1 students. As an F-1 student, you must regularly communicate with this individual at the center to ensure you maintain legal status while in the U.S.

12. What is a Form I-20 and why is it important?

The Form I-20, also called a "Certificate of Eligibility", confirms that a non-immigrant has been admitted to a U.S. school that is approved by the U.S. government to enroll non-immigrants. The I-20 is issued by the Designated School Official (DSO) at the school the student intends to study at and is required by the U.S. Embassy/Consulate to obtain F-1 visa status. In addition, F-1 students must maintain a valid I-20 by studying full-time to remain legally in the U.S. after their start date.

13. For how long will my I-20 be valid?

The length of your I-20 varies by course type as follows:

Name of Course	Length of I-20
English language training	12 –13 months, depending on center location
GMAT for International Students	6 months
GRE for International Students	6 months
NCLEX Complete for International Students	8 months
SAT for International Students	4 months
USMLE Step 1, USMLE Step 2 or USMLE Step 3	9 months for each step

If the course you purchase is shorter than the I-20 length listed above, you will have to pay for an extension/repeat of the course and continue to maintain full-time studies during the extension, in order to maintain legal status in the U.S. through the end of your I-20. If you end your course before your I-20 expiration date and do not re-enroll, your DSO will shorten your I-20 to reflect your early end date. You will then be permitted 60 calendar days to transfer-out or depart the U.S.

14. Can my I-20 be extended if I need more time to study?

You should plan to complete your studies with Kaplan by the end date listed on your I-20. If your paid course ends before this date, you can re-enroll through your I-20 end date, as long as you are in status and request to continue studies before your last day of study. If you believe you need to continue studies after your I-20 end date, you can speak to your DSO to see if you qualify for an extension. However, extensions are rare and require you to meet very specific criteria. Given this, it is important that you pace yourself during your studies to ensure you meet your academic goals in a timely manner. Please note, all requests for extensions must be made to your DSO before your last day of study. Extensions will not be granted if requested after your last day of study. There are no exceptions to this policy.

15. Do I have to pay a mailing fee to receive my I-20?

There is no cost to receive your first I-20. Each additional I-20 requires you to pay a \$50 express mail fee to cover the cost of mailing.

16. What is Kaplan's application deadline?

Kaplan has rolling admissions, which means there are no specific deadlines. However, you should allow at least two (2) weeks for Kaplan to process your application and to issue your I-20.

17. What does Kaplan require in a bank statement?

The bank statement/letter should show that you and/or your sponsor have enough funds to cover the cost of study. In addition, it must show that all funds are readily available without penalty for withdrawal. For this reason, statements from checking and/or savings accounts are best. Income statements, property deeds and other similar forms of investments are typically not acceptable. See Kaplan's "Instructions for F-1 Student Applications" document for additional requirements and/or for directions on how to calculate the cost of study.

18. Can I submit multiple bank statements if I do not have enough funds in one account?

Yes. You can show funds through multiple accounts and/or multiple sponsors, if necessary.

19. Do I have to show a bank statement even if I have paid?

In most cases, yes. Kaplan is required to list the amount of available funds on your I-20. We cannot print your I-20 without this information.

20. Do I have to show a bank statement even if I am living with friends or relatives?

Yes. The government wants to ensure you have enough funds to study and live in the U.S.

21. Can I change my start date after receiving my I-20?

You can change your start date anytime before entering the U.S. Simply contact Kaplan to confirm your new start date as soon as you know about the change. At that time, Kaplan will mail you a revised I-20 to show new study dates. A failure to notify Kaplan about these changes can cause problems for you at the Port of Entry and/or U.S Embassy.

Once you enter the U.S., you cannot postpone your start date. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, if you want to begin before your start date, this is acceptable. Simply go to the center and let them know you want to start early.

22. Can I change center locations after receiving my I-20?

If you have not received your F-1 visa, you can change center locations at any time. Simply contact Kaplan to confirm the new location and a new I-20 will be mailed to you from the new location. Your original I-20 will be cancelled, so you should not use it at the U.S. Embassy or Port of Entry.

If your visa has been issued, you can change locations, but you may need to get a new visa before entering the U.S. Law requires the name of the school on your I-20 to match the name of the school on your visa for successful entry to the U.S. If the names do not match because you changed center locations after getting your visa, you may be denied entry to the U.S. Check with your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate to see if a new visa is required before traveling to the U.S.

23. How early can I enter the U.S.?

You have up to 30 days before your start date to enter the U.S.

24. Can I enter the U.S. after my start date?

If you travel to the U.S. after your start date, you will probably face problems at the Port of Entry, since it appears you failed to meet the requirement of reporting to the center by your start date. To prevent problems at the Port of Entry, you should contact Kaplan and ask that we postpone your start date if you are unable to arrive before your start date. At that time, Kaplan will mail you a revised I-20 with a postponed start date.

25. What documents will I need to show at the Port of Entry?

In general, you must show the Port of Entry Officer the following documents. If these documents are missing or incomplete, you may be detained, questioned or denied entry altogether.

- A valid (non-expired) passport
- A valid (non-expired) F-1 visa with the name of the center you will be attending printed at the bottom
- All three pages of your Form I-20 issued by the center you will be attending (center name should match the name of the school listed on your visa.)

26. What happens at the Port of Entry?

Please visit <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm> and review the document called "What a Student Can Expect." This document discusses what you will need to do at the Port of Entry. It is available in English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Chinese.

27. What is an I-94 and why is it important?

The I-94, also called the “Arrival/Departure Document”, is a small white piece of paper that you will receive when you enter the U.S. It will be attached to your passport/visa at the Port of Entry and it confirms successful entry into the U.S. The Port of Entry Officer will hand-write an expiration date on the I-94, which confirms how long you can legally stay in the U.S. Before leaving the Port of Entry, make sure your I-94 says “Duration of Status” or “D/S.” All F-1 visa holders should get “D/S.” This means you are able to stay in the U.S. as long as you are maintaining valid F-1 status by studying full-time at a Department of Homeland Security approved school. (Please note, you can only study with Kaplan as long as permitted by the expiration of your I-20.) If your I-94 shows a different expiration date, you should question the Officer, since you may face problems after entry if you do not get “D/S.”

28. What is Form I-515A and what do I need to do with it if I am given one at the Port of Entry?

Form I-515A is a government form given to some travelers who are missing documentation required for entry to the U.S. If you are given this form by a Port of Entry Officer, you must ask what documentation you are missing. Once confirmed, you will be required to submit that documentation to the government within 30 days after entry. If you do not meet this deadline, you will fall out of legal status and will have to leave the U.S. immediately. If you are given this form, please speak to the DSO at your center immediately after entry. Kaplan can assist you in completing the documentation.

29. When do I need to start studies?

You are required to arrive at the center and begin full-time studies on or before the start date listed on your I-20. If you do not meet this requirement, your I-20 will be terminated and you will fall out of legal status. If you are outside the U.S. and unable to travel to the U.S. before your start date, contact Kaplan, and we will update your I-20, by postponing the start date. If you have entered the U.S. you will not be allowed to postpone your start date. There are no exceptions.

30. What are the study requirements at Kaplan?

As an F-1 student, you will be required to study at the Kaplan center that issued your I-20 at least 22 hours per week, during each week of your paid enrollment(s). You will learn more about Kaplan’s attendance requirements on your first day of class.

31. What happens if I do not study 22 hours per week?

If you do not study 22 hours per week, you risk falling out of legal status with the following consequences:

- Your I-20 will be terminated.
- You will no longer be eligible to study with Kaplan.
- You will not be eligible for a refund.
- You will be required to leave the U.S. immediately after termination.

32. Can I work during my studies at Kaplan?

As an F-1 student, your primary purpose for staying in the U.S. must be full-time study, so that you can achieve your academic and/or career goals. Therefore, the government restricts your ability to work to the following situations only:

- On-Campus, Part-Time Employment: You may work at the Kaplan center that issued your I-20 for no more than 20 hours per week. This is an option only if there is a position available and you are the most qualified candidate for that position. Please note, there is a limited number of these positions at most Kaplan centers.
- Off-Campus Employment Due to Financial Hardship: If you have studied for nine (9) months and can demonstrate in writing that you are experiencing a financial hardship that arose after admission to Kaplan, you may qualify for this type of employment. This type of employment requires DSO and government approval before you begin work.

Please note, if you are found to be working without government approval and/or in a position not listed above, your employment will be considered unauthorized employment. This will result in immediate termination of your I-20 in SEVIS. If this occurs, you will no longer be eligible to study with Kaplan, will not receive a refund and must leave the U.S. immediately.

33. Can I participate in practical training or OPT/CPT while at Kaplan?

No. As a Kaplan student, you are not eligible for practical training (OPT/CPT) under any circumstance. There are no exceptions.