

# STEPS TO OBTAIN A STUDENT VISA

If you are admitted to a graduate program at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health and plan to study in the U.S. on a student visa, you will need to obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 form before requesting an F-1 or J-1 visa from the U.S. government. Our office will work with you each step of the way to support the visa process. Most international students will need an I-20 to apply for an F-1 visa. If you require a J-1 visa, you will follow the same steps to obtain a DS-2019 form.

1



## RESPOND TO YOUR ADMISSION OFFER

Accept your offer of admission by filling out your "Declaration of Intent" from your admissions letter.



2



## PAY THE \$300 DEPOSIT ONLINE

You will receive an email with instructions for how to pay the \$300 deposit online. This amount is applied towards your first semester's tuition bill and is non-refundable.



3



## SUBMIT VISA DOCUMENTS

Once your deposit is confirmed, you will receive an email with information about the documents needed to obtain your Form I-20. All Documents should be submitted as one complete PDF packet to our admissions office via email once complete ([gwsphadmit@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphadmit@gwu.edu)).

4



## WAIT 7-10 BUSINESS DAYS

Once your documents are completed and approved by our office, they will be submitted to the GW International Services Office (ISO) to be processed for the creation of your I-20. This process takes approximately 7-10 business days, so please wait. If further information is needed from you, you will be contacted by email.



5



## ELECTRONIC I-20 EMAILED BY ISO

Once your I-20 has been created by the ISO, the ISO will contact you by email with an electronic copy of your I-20 with instructions on how to print and sign the document.



6



## MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

In the same email containing your electronic I-20, you will also receive a Student Visa Application Guide from the ISO with helpful information for scheduling a visa interview at your local U.S. embassy or consulate.

- We strongly encourage you to schedule your visa interview as soon as you receive your electronic I-20 via email.
- Once your interview is complete, all remaining parts of the visa process will be managed by the U.S. government. Our office will not be able to provide further information regarding your visa status or issuance.
- We recommend that you regularly check the website for the closest U.S. Embassy/Consulate in order to monitor any change in status, and to schedule your interview as soon as possible.

GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR YOUR  
STUDENT VISA INTERVIEW



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE STUDENT VISA PROCESS &  
FORMS NEEDED TO COMPLETE



Milken Institute School  
of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY