



## Pre-Arrival Information

### Paying the SEVIS Fee

All International Students Must Pay A \$180.00 to \$200.00 SEVIS Fee Before Applying For A Visa. This is a mandatory payment required by the government and not associated with Stetson's costs. The SEVIS Fee Is Not Associated With Your Visa Application Fee. They Are Separate Fees. You **must** have a receipt of payment for the SEVIS fee before applying for your visa. Without A Receipt You Will Not Be Allowed To Schedule A Visa Interview.

Stetson's School Code Number Is: **MIA214F00111000** for F Visas and the Program number is **P-1-04847** for J Visas.

### Online SEVIS FEE Instructions

1. Go to: [www.Fmjfee.Com](http://www.Fmjfee.Com)
2. Click on "Proceed to I-901 Form and Request."
3. Scroll To The Bottom Of The Page, Choose Either the **I-20** If you will be an **F-1** Student Or **DS2019** If you will be a **J-1** Student.
4. Fill Out Next Page On Personal Information
5. The Form Requires The "School Code" Which Is On Your I-20 or the "Program Code" which is on your DS-2019
  - The Code Is: **MIA214F00111000** for **F Visas**.....**P-1-04847** for **J Visas**
6. The Form Requires The **SEVIS Identification Number** On The I-20 or DS-2019
  - This # Is In The Upper Right Hand Corner Of The Form And Begins With An **N** And Has **10 Digits**.
7. Check That The Information Is Correct On The Next Page.

8. Choose First Class Mail Or Expedited Delivery. First Class Mail Is Recommended Because You Will Print The Receipt At The End And This Will Serve For The U.S. Embassy.
9. The Credit Card Form Has A Place For Cardholder Address. You Do Not Need To Fill This In. It Is Not A Required Field. The Space Is Too Small For Most International Addresses.

**10. PRINT AT LEAST 3 COPIES OF THE RECEIPT!!!!**

### Applying For Your Visa

1. Call the American Consulate for information on procedures for applying for a student visa. You may also visit the Consulate's web site. For links to the various consular websites visit: <http://usembassy.state.gov/>
2. Start early. All consulates are now requiring interviews. It may take several weeks to get an appointment. New security measures may also take additional time.
3. All visa applicants must pay a visa fee. This is usually paid at a bank in the city where the consulate is located.
4. Complete the visa application form which is available on-line at <http://evisaforms.state.gov>
5. Prepare your application materials carefully to prove your visa eligibility. See: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1268.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html) for tips on student visa applications. You will need the following:
  - Valid Passport
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Verification of Finances to pay for your education
  - Stetson University materials (admission letter, etc)
  - Verification of having paid SEVIS fee
  - Educational Documents including transcripts, diplomas, exam scores, etc.
  - Proof of close ties to your home country
    - Proof of a home in your country which you will not abandon
    - Proof of a job or job offer to return home to
    - Proof of close family to return to and to provide for
    - All types of visa support letters
    - Evidence of intention to return to your home country after you complete your education

### Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa

-Courtesy of NAFSA: Association of International Educators

1. **TIES TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY.** Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas, such as student visas, are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the

consular officer that they are not. You must therefore be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States. "Ties" to your home country are the things that bind you to your hometown, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc.

If you are a prospective undergraduate, the interviewing officer may ask about your specific intentions or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, educational objectives, grades, long-range plans and career prospects in your home country. Each person's situation is different, of course, and there is no magic explanation or single document, certificate, or letter that can guarantee visa issuance. If you have applied for the U.S. Green Card Lottery, you may be asked if you are intending to immigrate. A simple answer would be that you applied for the lottery since it was available but not with a specific intent to immigrate. If you overstayed your authorized stay in the U.S. previously, be prepared to explain what happened clearly and concisely, with documentation if available.

2. **ENGLISH.** Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview, but do NOT prepare speeches! If you are coming to the United States solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.
3. **SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.** Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family. A negative impression is created if you are not prepared to speak on your own behalf. If you are a minor applying for a high school program and need your parents there in case there are questions, for example about funding, they should wait in the waiting room.
4. **KNOW THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT FITS YOUR CAREER PLANS.** If you are not able to articulate the reasons you will study in a particular program in the United States, you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to immigrate. You should also be able to explain how studying in the United States relates to your future professional career when you return home.
5. **BE BRIEF.** Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.
6. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.** It should be immediately clear to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written

explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time, if you're lucky.

7. **NOT ALL COUNTRIES ARE EQUAL.** Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the United States as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study in the United States.
  
8. **EMPLOYMENT.** Your main purpose in coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program.  
If your spouse (husband or wife) is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be aware that F-2 dependents cannot, under any circumstances, be employed in the United States. If asked, be prepared to address what your spouse intends to do with his or her time while in the United States. Volunteer work is a permitted activity.
  
9. **DEPENDENTS REMAINING AT HOME.** If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence. This can be an especially tricky area if you are the primary source of income for your family. If the consular officer gains the impression that your family will need you to remit money from the United States in order to support themselves, your student visa application will almost certainly be denied. If your family does decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful to have them apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

## Traveling to Stetson

There are numerous ways to travel to Deland, Florida. Below are directions to Stetson if you choose to rent a car and drive to Stetson. You can also find campus maps and detailed information at: <http://www.stetson.edu/other/visit/>

### 1. **From Orlando:**

- Take I-4 **North** (East) to exit 114
- Go **Left** on 472
- Stay in **Right lane** and follow signs to DeLand
- Go **North** on 17/92 (Woodland Blvd.) approximately 5 miles
- Stay in **Left lane** until road narrows to one lane and keep going straight on Woodland Blvd. for about one mile
- Turn **Right** onto E. Pennsylvania Ave. (you will see the Holiday House and the Best Inn University on your Left). Now you are on the Stetson University campus.
- About 100 meters down the road, turn **Right** onto Burt Fish Drive
- About 50 meters down the road, turn **Left** onto E. University Ave. (you will see the Counseling Center and the Health Center at this corner)
- The Department of International Learning is the second house on your right. Park in the driveway.

### 2. **From Daytona:**

- If you are coming from Daytona Beach International Airport, turn **Left** onto Highway 92 **West** (International Speedway Blvd.)
- Go approximately 22 miles on 92
- Turn **Left** onto Amelia Avenue (you will see a Publix and a K-Mart on your right as you approach Amelia)
- Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn **Right** onto E. University Avenue (this is a small side street)
- The Department of International Learning is the second house on your left. Park in the driveway.

## Required Vaccinations

Stetson University requires documentation of immunization before being able to register for classes your second semester at Stetson. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact WORLD.

1. **Rubeola (Red or 10-day measles):** All undergraduate students born after December 21, 1956 must provide proof of immunity to measles.
  - Documentation is needed of two Rubeola immunizations with live measles virus vaccine, the first being on or after your first birthday
2. **Rubella (German measles):** All undergraduate students under the age of 40 must provide proof of immunity to Rubella
  - Documentation is needed of immunization with live rubella virus vaccine on or after your first birthday
3. **Proof of Immunization may be documented by:**
  - An original document citing immunizations or illness/titer dates bearing a Health Care Provider's signature which is legible, OR
  - Official stamp of clinic or health center, OR
  - Photocopy of official health record with a health care provider's signature
4. **Exemptions:** Exemptions to the Measles and Rubella immunization policy may be granted in the event of valid medical contraindications or for religious reasons. Medical and/or religious affiliation as a basis for exemption must be documented.

### Documents Required by WORLD for Immigration purposes

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires that WORLD maintains current and accurate information on all international students. This information will also help the WORLD to notify you of any changes in immigration regulations. Please review the following information and prepare to bring all necessary documents with you upon your arrival at Stetson and when **any** of this information changes:

- Admission number from I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
- Photocopy of I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 Visa Students)
- Photocopy of passport ID
- Photocopy of Visa
- Photocopy of health insurance card/proof of insurance valid in U.S.
- Address, phone number: By law address changes must be made within 10 days in SEVIS
- Degree program or major
- Expected date of graduation
- Other information such as financial documentation if necessary for document issuance

Please note that every semester the WORLD sends an "Information Update" for you to fill out. This ensures you are on campus and that World has the most up-to-date information in your record. This form gets sent to you within the first two weeks of classes to the email we have on file for you. It is important that you fill this out and return it **NO LATER THAN 4 weeks** from the beginning of the semester. Not filling out this form can result in termination of SEVIS record and loss of F-1 status.