

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A VISA?

To enter the United States to attend Oregon Health & Science University you must apply for an F-1 (student visa) at a U.S. consulate. The web-site http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html will provide you with information on applying for a visa at U.S. consulates around the world. You will want to be familiar with the rules and procedures of issuing visas before you apply for yours. Please review the information below before applying for your visa.

Non-immigrant Intent: The main reason that prospective students are denied visas is because they fail to prove to the consulate officer that they will return to their home country once they have completed their courses of study. An F-1 visa is a temporary visa, so you must prove that you intend to return to your home country when you have finished your course of study. This can be proved by showing ties to your home country. The following types of evidence can be used in showing your ties:

- Evidence that shows your family owns a business and/or property in your home country
- Evidence that a company in your home country will give you a job when you return
- Evidence that you have the skills necessary to succeed in the fields that are in demand in your home country

Ability and Intention to Study: You must provide proof that you have been unconditionally accepted into an accredited academic program. You will need to take your I-20 form and your acceptance letter with you to the visa interview. You will also want to provide evidence that demonstrates that you have the skills necessary to successfully complete the course of study to which you have been admitted. The following types of documents can be used in demonstrating your skills:

- Diplomas
- Transcripts listing the courses you have taken and the grades received
- Your TOEFL score report and other score reports such as the GRE or GMAT

Adequate Funds: You must provide proof that you have enough funding to cover tuition, health insurance, and living expenses. If you have received a scholarship you must provide evidence of that scholarship through a scholarship award letter or something similar. If you are planning to use personal funds you must show that you have adequate funding for the entire course of study and that the money can be taken out of your home country. If a sponsor will be supporting your course of study you must provide proof that he/she has funds adequate to support you throughout your course of study, along with a letter or affidavit of support from your sponsor pledging his/her support.

If you have any questions about the visa process please contact Alison Roache Jones, at (503) 748-7636 or at roacheja@ohsu.edu.