



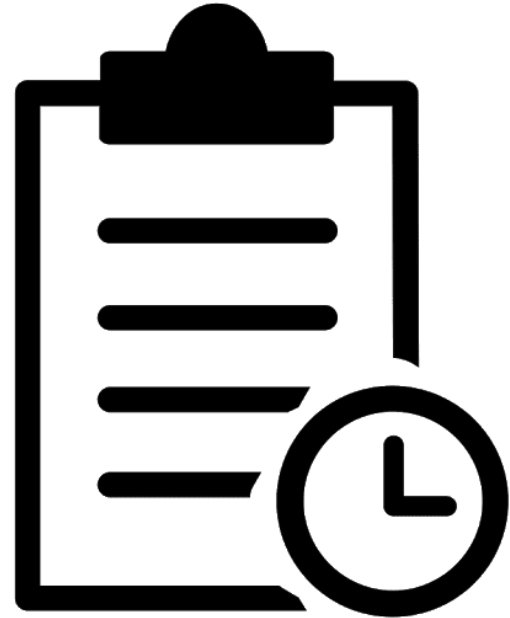
***International Student Visa and
Entry Process***

November 18, 2020

Today's Agenda

1. Meet your Global Ambassadors
2. Overview of student visa and entry process
3. Scheduling the visa interview appointment
4. The visa interview appointment
 - a. What to expect and how to prepare
 - b. Advice and tips
 - c. Possible outcomes
5. Traveling to and arriving in the U.S.
 - a. What to expect
 - b. How to prepare
6. Resources
7. Q & A

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu



Today's Global Ambassadors



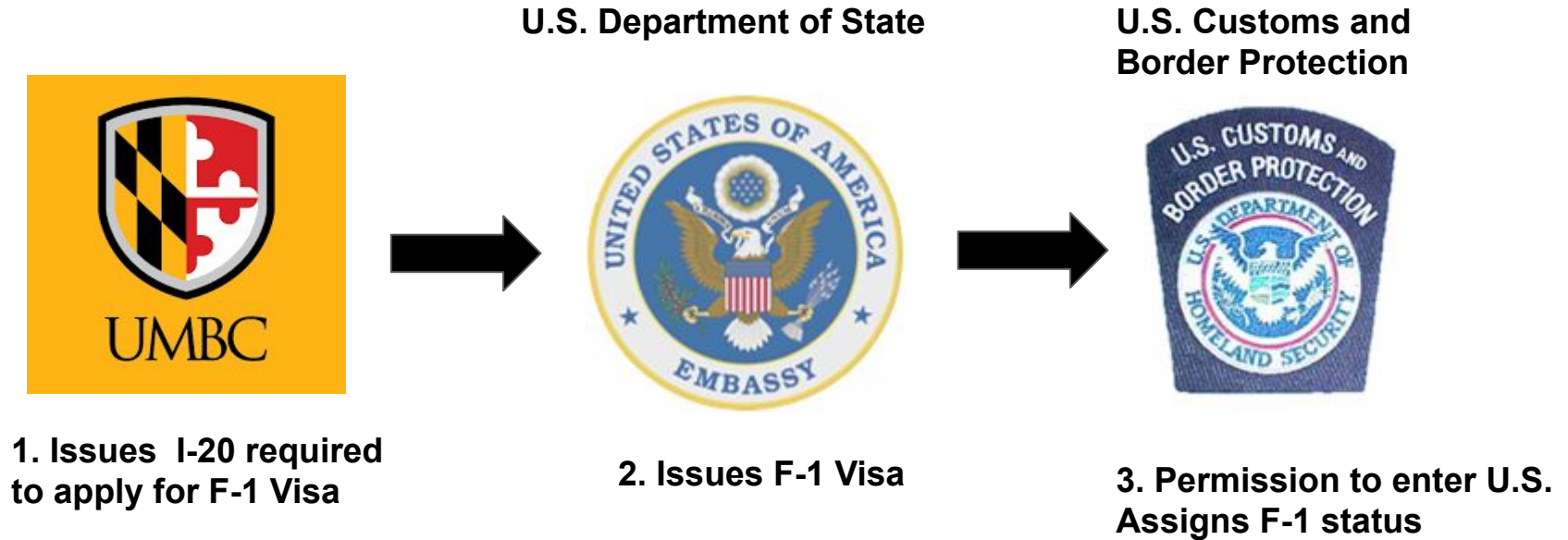
Sampada B.
M.S. Information Systems
Mumbai, India



Nastaran A.
B.S. Biology
Tabriz, Iran

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

The Student Visa Process



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Form I-20

- Issued by UMBC after admission
 - Program dates, level, study
 - Estimated cost of attendance
 - Permission to apply for F-1 visa
- Required at U.S. embassy and U.S. border
- Most important document for maintaining immigration **status** in future, **not visa**
- DO NOT LOSE

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: N00XXXXXXX

SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME Trojan	GIVEN NAME Tony	CLASS F-1
PRETENSE NAME Tony Trojan	PASSPORT NAME	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
DATE OF BIRTH	ADMISSION NUMBER	
FORM ISSUE REASON (CONTINUED ATTENDANCE)	LEGACY NAME Tony Trojan	ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE

SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL NAME University of Southern California University of Southern California	SCHOOL ADDRESS Office of International Students, 300 Student Union, Los Angeles, CA 90089
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL Ravi Sood Immigration Advisor	SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE 000157000000 30 JANUARY 2016

PROGRAM OF STUDY

EDUCATION LEVEL MASTER'S	MAJOR 1 Playwriting and Screenwriting 50.0504	MAJOR 2 None None
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 24 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Proficient	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient
PROGRAM START DATE 11 AUGUST 2014	PROGRAM END DATE 11 MAY 2016	

FINANCIALS

ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 37,599	Personal Funds	\$ 0
Living Expenses	\$ 2,044	None	\$ 0
Expenses of Dependents (if any)	\$ 0	None	\$ 0
None	\$ 0	On-campus Employment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 37,599	TOTAL	\$ 0

REMARKS

SCHOOL ATTESTATION

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation of the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of course taken and proof of financial responsibility, which was provided at the execution of this form. This school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

SIGNATURE OF SCHOOL OFFICIAL: Ravi Sood, Immigration Advisor DATE ISSUED: 10 March 2016 PLACE ISSUED: Los Angeles, CA

STUDENT ATTESTATION

I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of my extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.2(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.

SIGNATURE OF: Tony Trojan DATE: _____

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ ADDRESS (city/state or province/country): _____ DATE: _____

Scheduling visa appointment

1. Pay I-901 SEVIS fee - www.fmjfee.com
 - a. Must have Form I-20 to pay the fee
 - b. Current F-1 SEVIS fee \$350
2. Complete DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application - www.travel.state.gov
 - a. Must have Form I-20 to pay the fee
 - b. Current DS-160 fee \$160
3. Schedule a visa interview appointment at local U.S. Embassy or Consulate
 - a. Each U.S. embassy or consulate process differs slightly
 - b. Refer to website of specific embassy or consulate for detailed instructions at that post

The visa interview appointment

Required documents:

- Form I-20 (signed)
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- DS-160 receipt and barcode page
- Valid passport
- Transcripts from previous study (secondary school, undergraduate degree)
- Test results (TOEFL/iELTS, GRE, SAT etc..)
- Financial documents



Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Global Ambassadors

How far in advance did you schedule your visa appointment?

What documents did you bring with you to your appointment?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

The visa interview appointment



- U.S. law assumes all applicants intend to immigrate
 - Burden of proof is on you to overcome that assumption
- Must establish strong ties to home country
 - 9 FAM 402.5(E)(1) “Possess residence in a foreign country he or she has no intention of abandoning”
 - “Intends to depart upon completion of the approved activity”
- Consular officers are under pressure to act quickly
 - Conducted in less than three minutes
 - Usually conducted in English

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Global Ambassadors

Describe the day of your visa appointment?

What was the embassy like where you had your interview?

How long did your interview last?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

The visa interview appointment

Consular officer may ask:

- What do you intend to do after completing your degree?
- About your family's business in your home country or in the U.S.
- Why UMBC and why this particular program and degree?
- What are your long term career and academic goals?
- Where is UMBC?
- How will you support yourself while in the U.S.?
- How will you support your family in the U.S. or at home if they stay?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Global Ambassador

What questions did the consular officer ask you?

When did you learn if you were approved?

What documents did the officer ask for?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Tips for a Successful Visa Interview Appointment

- Be prepared to establish ties to home country and nonimmigrant intent
 - Do you or your family own property?
 - Investments or inheritance in home country?
 - Did you apply to the visa lottery in the past?
 - Do you have close relatives who are U.S. citizens or permanent residence?
- Do your research
 - What is UMBC? Where is UMBC? Why UMBC?
 - What do you know about Maryland? Baltimore? Baltimore County?
 - Be prepared to explain your academic program/field of study in layman's terms
 - Why did you choose UMBC and not a different university?
 - What are your career plans and how does this program help you achieve them?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Tips for a successful visa interview appointment

- Practice, Practice, Practice
 - Most interviews conducted in English
 - Speak for yourself
 - Be brief and be positive
- Be honest
 - A lie (however imaterial) will likely result in denial
 - Social media question on DS-160
- Be concise and prepared
 - Organize supporting documents in advance
 - Remember, you have 2-3 minutes (if you are lucky)

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Global Ambassadors

What tips and advice do you have for visa applicants?

What is one thing you know now that you wish you knew before your interview?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Visa interview outcomes

1. Approval
 - a. The vast majority of visa applications are approved
2. Failure to demonstrate nonimmigrant intent - INA 214 (b)
 - a. Burden of proof is on applicant
 - b. Credibility and evidence - does your plan make sense?
 - c. May apply again
3. Administrative Processing - INA 221 (g)
 - a. Consular processing - clerical or security (sensitive technology, terror, clearance)
 - b. "Washington-related"
4. Serious Ineligibilities - INA 212 (a)
 - a. Health, previous overstay, security concerns, previous criminal charge, etc..

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Traveling to the U.S.

- A visa is not a guarantee of entry to the U.S., it is only permission to apply
- F-1 Visa holders can request entry to the U.S. 30 days prior to I-20 start date
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection CBP has broad authority at U.S. Ports of Entry
 - All arriving “applicants for admission” are inspected by CBP to determine admissibility



Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Inspection at Port of Entry



Primary inspection

Required documents:

- Passport with at least six months future validity
- Form I-20

Suggested documents:

- Admission letter/academic transcripts
- Evidence of financial support

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Inspection at Port of Entry

Secondary inspection



- Not a cause for alarm
- Applicants taken to secondary:
 - SEVIS technical issues
 - Efficiency
 - Extra screening
 - Review documents
 - Officer training issue

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Global Ambassadors

Tell us about your experience(s) at U.S. Ports of Entry

What kind of questions have you been asked?

Have you ever been taken to secondary inspection?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Admission to the U.S.

Assigns I-94 number and admission status:

- F-1
- D/S
- May or may not stamp your passport

I-515A

- Temporary admission
- Must contact a DSO (IES staff) to comply



Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 51415565885

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 25

Class of Admission : F1

Admit Until Date : D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Passport Number :

Country of Issuance : China

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Port of Entry Tips

- Remain calm
- Keep your documents in your carry on luggage
- Ensure your passport has six months of future validity
 - Present F-1 visa foil, not B-1/B-2
- Do not lie to a CBP officer
- Know how to contact UMBC
 - After hours: 410-455-5555 ask to speak to "IES"
- Check your I-94 record



Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu



Global Ambassadors

What tips do you have for students traveling to the U.S.?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Questions?

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Resources

- NAFSA Ten Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa
<https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/browse-by-interest/10-points-remember-when-applying-student-visa>
 - Be sure to checkout the videos at the bottom!
- International Education Services - “F-1 Visa Process” www.ies.umbc.edu
- U.S. Department of State Student Visa Page
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>
- Your local embassy or consulate is always the best source of information

Ask a question in the Q&A box or email ies@umbc.edu

Thank You!

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