

Student Visa Policy Update

U.S. State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs
Office of Visa Services
Dave Franz, January 25, 2010

Slightly Fewer Students in FY-2009

- In Fiscal Year 2009, U.S. consulates and embassies abroad issued over 650,000 student, exchange visitor and vocational visas (F, M and J).
- F, M, and J together demand down eight percent; F-1, down three percent
- Bureau of Consular Affairs policy that students and exchange visitors given priority for visa appointments

Wait Times Reduced

- Current wait down to just a month for most applicants, and weeks for students and exchange visitors.
- In FY-2009, more than 85 percent of F, M, and J visa applicants were issued visas, and 97 percent received their visas within a few days.
- Nonetheless, please apply early!

Student Visa Inquiries

- The Student/Exchange Visitor Visa Center established e-mail box (fmjvisas@state.gov) in October 2008.
- Answers inquiries related to F, M, and J visas for students and exchange visitors.

Third Country Nationals

- Consular sections must take applications from out of district applicants
- Applicants still have to demonstrate residence abroad

Short-Term Study

- “incidental to travel”
- Fewer than 18 hours per week
- Purpose of attendance is recreational or avocational
- seminars or conferences that are required to earn a degree are **not** eligible for B visa classification

What's New

- CEAC (pronounced "see-ack") Consular Electronic Application Center
- DS-160 Web-based Nonimmigrant Application
- SEVIS II
- MRV visa application fees

Questions???