Visa Information for International Students

Congratulations on your offer of admission to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. The following instructions are included to ensure your smooth transition from your home country to Harvard. We hope that you find these instructions clear and precise; if you have questions do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (617)495-5315 or email at sumner@fas.harvard.edu.

I would like to call your attention to the enclosed two page form: “Financial Certification for Students who are not United States Citizens”. Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible and no later than May 15, 2015.

Please note you must certify that you have adequate funds before you can receive your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, which will allow you to apply for a visa at a Consulate or Embassy of the United States. In this packet, you will also find the amount of money you are required to certify in order to receive your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. It is important that you carefully consider how you plan to certify these funds.

If the funds are coming from a non-Harvard grant, you must submit an official, original letter from the funding institution giving the exact amount of the award in U.S. dollars, the dates of the award, and any restrictions on the use of the funds.

To certify your own personal funds, you must submit a letter from your bank indicating that you have an account with the bank and have the required amount of funds to cover at least one year of funding. The bank letter must be an original letter translated to English and the currency must be converted to U.S. dollars. The bank letter must be received by May 15, 2015 to guarantee sufficient time to process the Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. Funding guarantees or bank letters from family or other individuals will not be accepted. In addition, prior to registration in August 2015 you must provide the Graduate School with a letter from a Cambridge or Boston bank indicating that you have opened an account and have transferred the required funds to this account. Your registration will be blocked until confirmation from the Cambridge or Boston bank is received.

Typically, an international student is allowed to enter the United States thirty days prior to the start date of the program indicated on the Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. If you try to enter the United States earlier than thirty days, you may encounter problems. Do not enter the United States on a Tourist Visa without telling the personnel at the Consulate or Embassy of the United States that you are going to remain in the United States as a student. Make sure that this information is typed on your Tourist Visa. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service will not change your Tourist Visa to an F-1 or J-1 visa without this notation written on the visa. Do not enter the United States on the Visa Waiver Pilot Program. If you have questions regarding this, please contact the Harvard International Office (617)495-2789 or refer to the web site: http://hio.harvard.edu/student-guide.

Please read the enclosed information carefully, complete the financial certification form and return it no later than May 15, 2015. Your visa documents will be prepared when the completed financial certification form and certification of funding are received.

Sincerely,

Christine Sumner
Director of Admissions
Financial Certification

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service requires applicants for Student (F) and Exchange Visitor (J) Visas prove their ability to pay for tuition, fees and living expenses for one academic year before a visa will be issued.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, you must certify your ability to pay one of the following amounts:

**Single**: $69,973 (includes $45,358 tuition and fees and $24,615 living expenses for 9 months)

**Married and coming with spouse**: $79,273 (includes $45,358 tuition and fees and $33,915 living expenses for 9 months)

**Married and coming with spouse and children**: $79,273 plus $6,183 for the first child and $4,923 for each additional child

According to our records:

_____ You are supporting yourself without Harvard aid or other grants.

_____ You have received a Harvard grant toward tuition in the amount of ______________.

_____ You have received a Harvard grant or fellowship money for expenses beyond tuition in the amount of $______________.

_____ You have received a grant from _____________________________________________ in the amount of $________________.

TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS $___________________.

*See below for the amount of funds you need to certify*

_____ No further certification is necessary

_____ Further certification is necessary

  If you are coming alone, we require additional certification in the amount of $_____________.

  If you are coming with spouse only, we require additional certification in the amount of $_____________.

  If you are coming with a spouse and one child, we require additional certification in the amount of $_____________, plus $4,923 for each additional child.

*To certify your own funds,* you must submit a letter from your bank indicating that you have an account with the bank and have the required amount of funds to cover at least one year of funding. The bank letter must be an original letter translated to English and the currency must be converted to U.S. dollars. The bank letter must be received by May 15, 2015 to guarantee sufficient time to process the Form I-20 or From DS-2019. Funding guarantees or bank letters from family or other individuals will not be accepted. In addition, prior to registration in August 2015 you must provide the Graduate School with a letter from a Cambridge or Boston bank indicating that you have opened an account and have transferred the required funds to this account. Your registration will be blocked until this confirmation is received.

*To certify grants from outside Harvard,* the granting agency must send an original letter with the dates, amount and conditions of the award before your request for the Form I-20 or From DS-2019 is processed.
FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Read and complete this two-page form carefully, and return it to the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid as soon as possible and no later than May 15, 2015 to guarantee sufficient processing time.

Print your legal name exactly as it appears on your passport:

__________________________________________________________________________________________
Last / Family Name                              First /Given Name                                Middle Name

Admitted to: Program___________________________________  Degree________

1. Which visa are you applying for?
   ____ Student F (Form I-20)
   ____ Exchange Visitor J (Form DS-2019); indicate the sponsor of your Exchange Visitor J visa (e.g. Harvard, Fulbright, governmental agency, foundation, etc.)

2. Gender:     Male ____   Female ____             Date of birth:    ______|_______|_______
   month              day               year

3. City of birth: ________________________Country of birth:______________________________
   Country of citizenship:___________________Country of legal residence:____________________

4. Are you coming to the United States alone ?                                                  YES              NO
   If you are not coming alone, will your spouse accompany you?                      YES              NO
   Is your spouse planning to seek paid employment in the U.S.?                       YES              NO
   Are you coming to the United States alone ?                                                  YES              NO
   If you are not coming alone, will your spouse accompany you?                      YES              NO
   Is your spouse planning to seek paid employment in the U.S.?                       YES              NO
   Note that F-2 visa holders are ineligible for paid employment in the U.S.; J-2 visa holders may apply for work authorization.

5. Are you married, will your spouse be attending a school in the United States?     YES          NO
   Is your spouse’s admission granted or pending?                                                      YES         NO
   Institution your spouse will attend? _____________________________________
   Source of your spouse’s funding ?  _________________________________  __   (attach copy)

6. Are you presently attending a college or university in the United States?         YES              NO
   Institution name: ___________________________ your present visa status: _________ since what date
   have you been in this status?_________. Students will need to inform their current institution of their
   intent to transfer their visa status to Harvard. A new visa document cannot be issued until your current
   institution releases your SEVIS record to Harvard. You must complete the Transfer In form
   (http://hio.harvard.edu/student-transfer-form) and return it via fax to (617)496-5333. If you hold
   an Exchange Visitor J or Student Form I-20 visa, please attach a copy of your most recent form.

7. What is your occupation and place of employment in your home country? ________________________

8. Do you plan to travel outside the U.S. prior to your arrival at Harvard? If yes, what are your travel plans?
   ____________________________________________

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9. What is your source of funding?
Harvard Award: ___________________________ Amount $___________
Agency Funding (specify): ______________________ Amount $___________
Attach an official letter from the Agency. The letter must include the amount in U.S. dollars and terms of the award.
Student’s Personal Funds ___________________________ Amount $___________
Attach an official letter from your bank. The letter must indicate that the account is in your name and include the value of funds in the account, in U.S. dollars. Funding guarantees from family or other individuals will not be accepted.

Current contact information:

Telephone:___________________ Email:________________________________________________

Address to which I-20 or DS-2019 document should be mailed:

Address Line 1 _____________________________________________________
Line 2 ___________________________________________________  _
City                                                 State or Province ________________________
Country_____________________________Zip or Postal Code _________

To request express mail (DHL or FedEx) shipment of your I-20 or DS-2019: The GSAS uses this service - https://study.eshipglobal.com. You must use the website provided – do not go through the DHL or FedEx website directly. The eShipGlobal service will notify GSAS that you are requesting your I-20 or DS-2019 to be sent by express mail. To use this service, you will be required to register and create an account and pay for the shipment. Once you have created your account select the ‘receive a package’ option, choose Harvard University, and then choose GSAS - Admissions Office.

Permanent address outside the United States (note: your documents will not be processed without this information):

Address Line 1 _____________________________________________________
Line 2 ___________________________________________________  _
City                                                 State or Province ________________________
Country_____________________________Zip or Postal Code___________

Full Name (please print) ______________________________________________

Signature _________________________________________________________

Date__________________________________________________________

Please return this form no later than May 15, 2015. Mailed to:

Harvard University, GSAS Admissions and Financial Aid
Suite 350, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138