In order to begin the visa process:
- Accept the offer of admission;
- By late May, or early June, you will have received a systems email with an embedded link;
- Log back into your application account;
- Click VIEW APPLICATION;
- Click on the section titled CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES;
- Carefully read the directions and save the required Financial Certification Form as instructed.

Harvard University processes and issues visa forms for admitted Special Students and Visiting Fellows who are non-U.S. Citizens to conduct study in the United States. To issue these documents the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires that you provide Harvard with certification of sufficient funds to meet the Cost of Living Estimates stated on page 2 to finance your tuition, fees, and living expenses during your (and, if applicable, your family member’s) time in the US.

Harvard will issue you a Form I-20, unless you are required to receive a J visa for which Harvard will issue a Form DS-2019. You will take your Form I-20 to apply (for an F visa) or the Form DS-2019 to apply (for a J visa) at a Consulate or Embassy of the US. Reference the Types of Certification below to determine what type of document you will provide. Reference the Cost of Living Estimates in the table on page 2 to determine the amount of funds your certification must reflect for your (and, if applicable, your family member’s) visa documents to be issued.

To certify your own funds, you must submit a letter from your bank indicating that you have an account and have the required amount of funds to finance your tuition, fees, and living expenses during your appointment. The bank letter must be an original letter translated to English and the currency must be converted to US dollars. The bank letter must be received by June 22 to guarantee sufficient time to process the Form I-20 or From DS-2019 (December 11 for a spring term start). Funding guarantees or bank letters from family or other individuals will not be accepted. In addition, prior to online registration you must pay your tuition bill in full. 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 Form DS-2019 is processed.

Harvard University will only issue a Form I-20 or DS-2019 after receiving complete certification reflecting that you have access to sufficient funds to finance your academic term or academic year at Harvard. You may provide multiple documents that, when combined, meet the required certification amount.

If you are currently attending an institution in the US on an F visa or will do so immediately during the months immediately prior to arriving at Harvard, please contact us directly for additional instructions (email: special@fas.harvard.edu).

If you are a continuing applicant (i.e. currently sponsored by GSAS), expecting your current Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 to be extended, please deliver your financial certification to us at least THREE WEEKS prior to the end date on your current Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.

**TYPES OF CERTIFICATION**

**FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS OR OTHER AID** provide an official letter in English from the funding institution(s) clearly stating the amount of your award in US dollars or foreign currency, the date or dates of the award, and any restrictions on the use of the funds.

**PERSONAL FUNDS** provide an official letter in English from your bank or account statement/summary clearly stating the amount of funds in your account(s) and your Surname and Given Name in Western characters.
COST OF LIVING ESTIMATES: 2016-2017
Estimated academic and living expenses for the 2016-2017 academic year are listed below, as established by Harvard University and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Office of Admissions of Financial Aid. Remember that these figures only represent the bare minimum for living in the Cambridge/Boston area and that they are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees Fall 2016 Term</th>
<th>Living Expenses Fall 2016 Term</th>
<th>Total Fall 2016 Term</th>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees 16-17 Full Year</th>
<th>Living Expenses 16-17 Full Year</th>
<th>Total 16-17 Full Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single/Married, not bringing spouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Student</td>
<td>$23,507</td>
<td>$14,075</td>
<td>$37,582</td>
<td>$47,014</td>
<td>$25,335</td>
<td>$72,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Fellow</td>
<td>$7,488</td>
<td>$14,075</td>
<td>$21,563</td>
<td>$14,976</td>
<td>$25,335</td>
<td>$40,311</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married, bringing spouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Student</td>
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<td>$19,380</td>
<td>$42,887</td>
<td>$47,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Fellow</td>
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<td>$19,380</td>
<td>$26,868</td>
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<td>$34,884</td>
<td>$49,860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married, bringing spouse and child*</td>
<td>$23,507</td>
<td>$22,920</td>
<td>$46,427</td>
<td>$47,014</td>
<td>$41,256</td>
<td>$88,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Fellow</td>
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<td>$22,920</td>
<td>$30,408</td>
<td>$14,976</td>
<td>$41,256</td>
<td>$56,232</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ADD an additional cost of living expense of $564 per month for each additional child accompanying you during your studies in the United States.

All financial certification letters and/or documents should be sent to the Special Students and Visiting Fellows Office.
You will upload the documents to your application initially, but the originals must also be sent.

Special Students and Visiting Fellows Office
Harvard University, GSAS
1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Smith Center 350
Cambridge, MA 02138
United States
Phone: +1 617 495 5315
Email: special@fas.harvard.edu

Express Shipment of Visa Documents via eshipglobal
To request express postal shipment of your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 via an international express courier (DHL, Federal Express, UPS), you must use the eshipglobal service to facilitate payment for the shipment using your credit card. Do not use the DHL, FedEx or UPS website directly. Visit the following website: https://study.eshipglobal.com, and click on Student Sign Up to register and create an account. Once you have created your account, select Harvard University – Harvard Intl. Office (Graduate/GSAS) as the university office from which you wish to receive the documents. We will be directly notified that you have completed this process and your documents will be sent accordingly. Many frequently asked questions are answered on the eshipglobal FAQ website: https://study.eshipglobal.com/help/default.asp?page=8

IT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED THAT YOU CHOOSE THIS METHOD TO ENSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF YOUR FORMS.

Arriving in the United States:
Your Form I-20 or DS-2019 will allow you to enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the start date of your program. Your form will not allow you to enter the U.S. after this date. If you will arrive after the start date noted on your form, contact us immediately to request a new form (email: special@fas.harvard.edu). Students and Fellows should NOT enter the U.S. on a tourist or business visa or as part of the visa waiver program. Those doing so would not be permitted to register at Harvard until they have entered the U.S. under proper visa status.

Departing from the United States:
Students and Fellows with a Form I-20 and F-1 visa may remain in the United States up to 60 days following the stated end date (the date you complete studies) on the Form I-20.
Students and Fellows with a Form DS-2019 and J-1 visa may remain in the United States up to 30 days following the end date of the Form Coverage period.