



Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
International Student Service Office  
5001 N. Oak Trafficway  
Kansas City, MO 64118  
Office: (816) 414-3713  
Email: [international@mbts.edu](mailto:international@mbts.edu)

### Preparing for study at Midwestern

- Discuss the admissions process with the admission staff at Midwestern (816) 414-3738 or email [admissions@mbts.edu](mailto:admissions@mbts.edu). Complete all application materials as instructed by the admissions office.
- Apply for your I-20. Submit a copy of the following:
  - Passports for all family members who will be traveling with you to the United States.
  - Certificate of Finances with supporting documentation such as bank statements or notarized affidavit of support from your sponsor. Contact International Office at [international@mbts.edu](mailto:international@mbts.edu) for the amount required for your intended degree program.
  - An I-20 will be issued after you have:
    - Been accepted to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.
    - Submitted your passports for you and all who will accompany you.
    - Completed the certificate of finance form with supporting documentation.

After receiving your I-20 you are ready to prepare for your F-1 VISA interview

\*\*\*\*\*

### Preparing for the F-1 VISA interview

- Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy to ask about how to get an F-1 international student VISA.
- After you receive an I-20 form, follow the U. S. Embassy or Consulate's instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 student VISA. It is important to apply for your student VISA as far in advance as possible.
- Pay the VISA application fee by following instructions on your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate's web site.

- Pay the I-20 application fee known as the I-901 fee or SEVIS fee. This link will give you instructions on how to pay the I-901 fee. **Print the receipt for your VISA interview.** <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/paying-the-i-901-sevis-fee>
- Other forms may be required for VISA processing. Contact your U.S. Embassy or Consulate's web site to see if the additional forms are required such as DS-156, DS-157, DS-158, or DS-160.
- Bring the following for your VISA interview.
  - A passport valid for at least six months.
  - Form I-20 (sign the form under student attestation).
  - School admission letter.
  - Completed VISA applications (DS-156, DS-157, DS-158, DS-160 if applicable).
  - Two 2"x 2" photographs as required by the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
  - A receipt for the VISA application fee.
  - A receipt for the I-901 SEVIS fee.
  - Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.
  - Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the United States. This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community.
- Remain calm and answer all the VISA Officer's questions openly and honestly.
- Arriving the U.S.
  - Carry your I-20(s) with you when you leave for the U.S.
  - Arrive in the U.S. by your program start date, but no earlier than 30 days before your program start date.
  - If you do not have medical insurance, choose a general travel insurance plan to cover you for the journey to the U.S. You may select a full-coverage plan when you arrive at the seminary.
  - Check-in with the International Student Services office as soon as you arrive. This is mandatory. To schedule a check-in appointment, call (816) 414-3713.
    - Bring the following:
      - VISA's (for all family members who traveled with you).
      - Address to where you will be staying in the United States.
- Call this number if you have any problems at the Port of Entry (816) 414-3700 and ask them to contact Candice Scott or Jared Kathcart.