



**International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)**  
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## **Visa Information for Non-U.S. Citizen Students Planning to Study at SAIS in Washington, DC**

The director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at SAIS in Washington, DC ensures that appropriate immigration documents are issued to allow students to enter the United States in either F-1 or J-1 student status.

F-1 immigration status is primarily used for students who are enrolled in a degree-granting program at a school authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to bring in students in F-1 classification. The J-1 immigration status applies to exchange students and those students who are funded for their studies by government entities.

ISSS is responsible for university compliance with the federal regulations governing international students who hold F-1 and J-1 status. ISSS works with the office of Student Affairs to ensure a smooth arrival for the international students.

### **Visa Packet**

The email you received from SAIS should have included the following documents:

1. *Visa Information for Non-U.S. Citizens* (this information sheet)
2. *SAIS F-1/J-1 Request Form for International Students*—this form must be completed and returned to the ISSS director in Washington, DC before you can apply for your visa
3. *Applying for an F-1 or J-1 Visa*
4. *Proving Nonimmigrant Intent*

### **Visas**

Citizens of all countries except Canada are required to have the appropriate visa stamps in their passports if they are to enter the U.S. in student status. In order for you to apply for a visa you will need either *Form I-20* (for F-1 visa applicants) or *Form DS-2019* (for J-1 visa applicants), issued by the International Student and Scholar (ISSS) director at SAIS, Washington, DC. The ISSS director will make the determination whether the F-1 or J-1 status would be applicable to a particular student based on the source of funding that will be used toward completion of the program of study in Washington, DC and based on various other aspects of the student's application (family status, etc.).

## Estimated Student Budget, 2007 – 2008

Tuition.....	\$31,300
Room & Board.....	\$13,500
Books & Supplies.....	\$1,100
Health Insurance.....	\$1,400
Personal Expenses.....	\$2,500
Travel.....	\$800
Cafeteria Fee.....	\$200
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$50,800</b>

### Financial Documentation

The above figures are calculated by the Office of Financial Aid and represent an estimate of expenses a student will incur during the year of study at SAIS in Washington, DC. The ISSS director is legally required to verify that you have sufficient financial means to sustain yourself during your studies in the U.S. prior to issuing Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. Please complete the SAIS F-1/J-1 Request Form for International Students and return it to the ISSS director together with the appropriate financial documentation. **Make sure to ask for duplicates of all original financial documentation. One copy will be held at SAIS, while original documents must be presented to the U.S. consulate as well. For official SAIS award letters, only a photocopy need be submitted.**

All financial documents must be originals; copies are not acceptable. You need to list all financial support you have available to meet the total estimated budget of **\$50,800**. Please list all grants, scholarships, personal and or family funds, loans, etc.

List of acceptable documents to be submitted with the *SAIS F-1/J-1 Request Form for International Students*:

1. **Original award letters** for all non-SAIS fellowships.
2. A photocopy of the letter for financial aid awarded by SAIS.
3. Students using their personal savings need to submit their most recent bank statement from their bank account showing that sufficient funds are available.
4. Students with financial support from family members must submit the following two documents:
  - a. Statement of support from the sponsoring family member confirming that she/he is willing to support the student during her/his studies at SAIS and
  - b. A bank statement from the sponsor's account showing that sufficient funds are available.

Note: The budget includes a \$1,400 mandatory health insurance fee. This fee can be waived if you can prove coverage by major medical insurance valid in the United States once you arrive at SAIS.