

VISA APPLICATION CHECKLIST FOR J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS

- o Before applying for a visa, select the website of the US consulate/embassy near you at <http://www.usembassy.gov/> and view their individual visa requirements.
- o Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee at least a **WEEK** before your visa interview at the US Embassy or Consulate. Read the following links for more information on **SEVIS I-901 Fee**:
 1. <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>
 2. <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/student/help.htm>
- o Make your appointment with the US embassy or consulate AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:
https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-US/countries_list/niv
Note: Singapore nationals must book directly with the embassy.
- o **Fill out the Form DS-160** (Nonimmigrant Visa Application)
<https://ceac.state.gov/GENNIV/default.aspx>

***** AFTER TRANSACTION PRINT YOUR RECEIPT AND KEEP IT DURING ALL TRAVELS*****

Take this confirmation to your visa interview, along with the following:

- o Properly signed SEVIS DS-2019 Form— Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (J-1) Exchange Visitor Status;
- o Valid passport (Machine Readable Passport is required at U.S. Borders as of June 26, 2005);
- o Letter of admission/Invitation/Contract letter from Elon University;
- o Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses (e.g., bank statement);
- o Evidence of English proficiency (e.g., TOEFL score) if applicable;
- o Evidence of residence abroad and intention to depart the U.S. after completion of the exchange program;
- o Be prepared to discuss, if you are asked, your strong ties to your home country (e.g., marriage certificate, housing/mortgage agreement, job assignment after J-1 period, a letter/contract letter from current employer, all with English translation) and your intention to depart the U.S. after completion of your degree or J-1 program;
- o One (1) photograph uploaded with application:
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos/frequently-asked-questions.html>
- o Machine Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee - check the fee with the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your area;
- o Visa issuance fee (if applicable):
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html#fees>

Bring your DS-2019, passport, admission/invitation letter, proof of financial support and receipt of SEVIS fee paid with you when you go for interview and when you travel to the USA!