

International Students - VISA Instructions

Obtaining the correct visa for travel to attend GERI programs is sometimes confusing. There are a number of agencies involved in the process of obtaining visas. The Department of State at each United States consulate has rules about who gets permission to enter the US. After that, the office of Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) decides what people are allowed to do while they are in the US.

People traveling under a tourist visa or a waiver of visa program may not take our classes while they are in the United States. Students attending any of GERI's programs must have an F-1 visa in order to study at the programs. Our programs are not recreational in purpose, rather they are vocational. Sometimes people may get conflicting advice from neighbors, local consulates, or embassies. However, we must adhere to the regulations set forth to us by the Purdue Office of International Students and Scholars.

Here are the steps to obtain visas for students enrolling in GERI's programs:

1. Potential applicant will contact GERI and ask for an invitation to attend GERI summer programs. GERI will mail an invitation to each student stating the purpose of the visit and the start and end dates of camp.
2. GERI will send blank Exchange Visitor Questionnaires to each prospective student. GERI will send an electronic program registration and application form to each student or school.
3. The student applicant completes the Exchange Visitor Questionnaire and GERI application.
4. No later than the deadline of April 10, the student applicant returns those to GERI with:
 - a. An original verification letter of funding, such as a letter from the parents' employer or bank confirming that they have sufficient funding of at least \$220/month.
 - b. A copy of the student applicant's passport
5. GERI completes the Exchange Visitor Request form and takes that to the International Students and Scholars (ISS) office on campus.
6. The ISS office decides whether to issue an I-20 form. If they do issue one, GERI will FEDEX that to the student (or school if student is coming with a school group).
7. While waiting for the I-20 form, student applicants need to schedule an appointment with the United States embassy in their country to obtain the final F-1 visa stamp.
8. After the student applicant is accepted into the program, GERI will send additional camp informational materials.