Randolph-Macon College
Ashland, Virginia

ADVICE FOR OBTAINING YOUR U.S. VISA

When to Apply

You should apply for your student visa well in advance of the date you would like to depart for Randolph-Macon College. Remember that you are required to show proof of having paid the Federal SEVIS I-901 Fee when you appear for your visa interview (see the separate Federal SEVIS Fee Information Sheet). Holiday and vacation periods are very busy times at the US embassies and consulates worldwide, and it is important for you to have your visa in time to arrive and begin orientation and registration activities no later than the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019. Appointments are now mandatory for all student visas, and some U.S. embassies and consulates require that appointments be made at least four to eight weeks in advance. The actual visa interview may be as early as 120 days prior to your planned arrival date in the United States. All U.S. embassies and consulates have a website where you can read the latest information on visa procedures. Visit: http://www.usembassy.gov/ to locate the embassy or consulate near you.

What to Bring With You to the Visa Interview

Be sure to bring the following with you to the visa appointment:

- Passport
- Required photo(s)
- Visa fee or proof of visa fee payment
- Federal SEVIS I-901 Fee payment receipt
- U.S. non-immigrant visa application forms (unless you will complete it at the consulate or embassy)
- Randolph-Macon College admission letter
- Randolph-Macon College SEVIS I-20 or SEVIS DS-2019
- Test scores and academic records
- Proof of English proficiency
- Proof of financial support
- Evidence of ties to your home country
- Any other documents required by the embassy or consulate