Applying for the J-1 Student Visa

Before you begin the visa application process, you must have the following documents:

1. **Form DS-2019 (Sent to you in this packet)**
   Your DS-2019 is required when applying for an J-1 student visa at an American Embassy or Consulate and for entry into the United States. This DS-2019 has been produced by Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and is an acknowledgement that your record is in the SEVIS system. The form includes your SEVIS ID number, which is the number in the upper right hand corner above the bar code (usually starts with an N).

2. **SEVIS Fee Receipt**
   All new students coming in J-1 status must pay a $200 SEVIS fee prior to applying for your visa. You can find instructions on paying this fee at fmjfee.com.

**Applying for your Student Visa**

You must apply for your visa well in advance of your arrival, as it can, in some instances take several weeks, and occasionally longer, to obtain the student visa.

To apply for a U.S. visa, you will need to present the following documents at the U.S. embassy or consulate nearest to you:

- Your Form DS-2019
- The SEVIS Fee receipt
- A copy of your financial support documents, i.e. evidence that you have sufficient funds to meet the expenses of studying at Trinity, e.g. bank statement.

In addition, the application for a U.S. visa requires you to present:

- A valid passport
- Passport-size photographs
- Completed online visa application form DS-160. This can be accessed at [http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/exchange.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/exchange.html)

An application fee and an interview will also be required. There have been (and continue to be) changes in the visa application process and these changes are usually reflected on the consular Web sites.
Special Notes

When applying for your student visa, pay careful attention to the following:

- The U.S. Department of State has instructed U.S. consulates that they may issue a J-1 visa no more than 120 days in advance of the program start date. However, an application for a J-1 visa can be submitted more than 120 days in advance of the DS-2019 start date in order to accommodate long processing times. Again check the website of the consulate where you will apply for a visa for detailed instructions.

- In addition, you may enter the U.S. **no more than 30 days** prior to the starting date noted on the DS-2019 Form. If you try to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date on your DS-2019, you may not be permitted to enter the U.S.