

# **MEC Pre-Arrival Guide**



## **Pre-Arrival Information Guide**

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## A Message from the President

Dear student,

### **Welcome to MEC!**

Please take the time to read over our Pre-arrival guide. This guide will provide you with some important information to help you prepare for your stay at New York City. Please contact us if you have further questions after reading this material.

### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to provide an Intensive English Program (IEP) that trains a culturally diverse student body from all over the world to become fluent in American English. By meeting these goals, we will deliver on our mission and excel in the education field.

To achieve this mission, the School has identified these additional objectives:

1. To deliver content-based English language courses designed to help students acquire fluent language skills, be able to think critically in English, to communicate ideas clearly, and demonstrate comprehension competence in English through integrated instruction, tasks, and projects.
2. To provide an educational environment that encourages an appreciation of academic language studies coupled with American Culture.
3. To uphold our commitment to have a diverse student community while offering policies that hold students accountable to the school's high standards of learning.

Our faculty and staff have been working since 2002 to offer academic challenges that meet the individual needs of all students. The results of our continual pursuit of serving the needs of the students are apparent in the graduates of MEC, many of whom have continued to colleges and universities for undergraduate and graduate degree programs while others have established careers thanks to the improvement of their English level.

We look forward to meeting you upon your arrival! **Your future begins at MEC!**

Best Regards,



Reginald Menos  
President / PDSO  
MEC

## Visas

Once you have submitted all the documents required applying for your visa and your application has been accepted in MEC, you must apply for an F1 student visa.

• *If you are currently in the United States in F-1 or J-1 visa status and plan to remain in that same visa status, you must transfer your F-1 or J-1 SEVIS record to MEC. See “VISA TRANSFERS” for more information.*

### How to apply for a student visa:

#### 1. Pay the SEVIS fee.

New students must pay the SEVIS fee before applying for an entry visa or entering the United States. This fee is charged by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is not administered by MEC.

You will not be able to pay the fee until you have your I-20 in your possession. For more about how to pay the fee, visit [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com).

#### 2. Locate the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in your home country.

Embassy and consulate information, including locations and document requirements, is available online at [www.embassyworld.com](http://www.embassyworld.com).

#### 3. Schedule your visa interview appointment.

Your local embassy or consulate will have specific instructions for scheduling an appointment. Waiting times for an appointment can be lengthy (up to several weeks or longer), especially during the busy summer months. Schedule your appointment as soon as possible after receiving your visa documents.

#### 4. Prepare documents for your visa interview.

All visa applicants must provide the following documents to the U.S. embassy or consulate at the time of the application:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Valid passport                                     | one year (Minimum \$23000)   |
| • I-20   | • Receipt of SEVIS fee payment                                       |
| • Admission letter                                   | • Visa application forms (available from the U.S. embassy/consulate) |
| • Documented proof of financial support for at least | • Any documents requested by embassy/consulate                       |

## Dependents

Your spouse and children under age 21 are eligible to accompany you to the United States with a dependent visa (F-2). You must request a dependent I-20 document for each of your eligible dependents.

Dependents are not required to pay the SEVIS fee. Be aware that F-2 status holders may not work in the United States, nor can they study at a university or other post-secondary institutions in the United States.

## Visa Denials

If your visa is denied, ask the consular official to provide a written explanation of the denial, and then

Contact MEC [admissions@mecenglishcenter.com](mailto:admissions@mecenglishcenter.com) and write "Visa Denial" in the subject line.

## Security Clearance Checks

Many visa applicants are subject to additional security clearance checks that will delay the issuance of your visa by one to two months. This is NOT a denial.

## Arrival in the United States

You should plan to arrive in the United States, so you have sufficient time to rest up from jet lag, search for housing, attend required orientation session and register for classes.

Immigration regulations permit arrival up to 30 days prior to the start-date of your document for F visa holders. If you cannot arrive before your document's start-date, contact MEC admissions department.

## Prepare for Inspection at the U.S. Port of Entry

During your flight to the United States, flight attendants will give you a CBP Declaration Form 6059B to complete. Air (and sea) arrivals will be posted on an electronic I-94 arrival record available online after inspection is complete at [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94).

Land border arrivals may require completing a paper Form I-94 as an arrival record. Use your passport or visa name spelling exactly.

You must present to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer your passport with entry visa, your completed Declaration Form 6059B, and your I-20. You may be asked to show additional documents such as proof of financial support. Make sure to carry these documents with you, not in your checked baggage.

Please see [www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors) for more port of entry information.

## Insurance

MEC strongly recommends that students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents purchase insurance coverage through a U.S. carrier.

## Transfer Students

You are considered a “Transfer Student” if you hold F-1 status at another institution in the United States and plan to remain in that visa status. Your SEVIS record must be transferred to MEC.

To get started, you will need to fill out the MEC Student Admission Form and send it back by email with a copy of your passport (all pages with all previous VISAs), bank statement (Minimum \$5000), letter of support (if needed), and diploma from your high-school or university.

Required documents:

- Copy of Passport bio pages, valid at least 6 months.
- Original Bank Statement showing no less than US\$5,300. If a Bank Statement is not available, an Affidavit of Support is required, which should include signatures and contact information of those who are willing to support the student for the entire time he/she will be studying at MEC.
- Copy of High-School diploma or University Degree.

If your application is accepted, you will receive an acceptance letter and a transfer form.

Contact your previous school and inform them of your intent to transfer.

*\*MEC cannot process your I-20 before your SEVIS record has been electronically released.*