

International Student Visa Guide - Pro Aircraft

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the visa process for international students seeking to pursue flight training at Pro Aircraft. It outlines the necessary steps, including visa application procedures, TSA requirements, and travel arrangements.

PRO AIRCRAFT

Visa Programs

Pro Aircraft is proud to offer international students the choice of the M-1 visa.

The M-1 visa is used for both short-term vocational education experiences, e.g. Private or Commercial Pilot Certificates, as well as full professional pilot programs. The M-1 visa may be issued for a maximum of 5 years. When on an M-1 visa, a student cannot change to an F-1 (academic) or employment visa.

International Enrollment Steps

1

Apply at Pro Aircraft

Visit the **Apply** webpage and complete the necessary steps to submit your application. Once you have received an acceptance letter, pay the Registration Fee, pay the International Application Processing Fee, and move to Step 2 of this process.

2

Submit TSA Training Request

The TSA Foreign Flight Training Rule requires that all non-U.S. citizens (including those with a Green Card) planning to do any kind of flight training in any type of aircraft (airplane/helicopter/flight simulator) that could be used towards their Initial FAA Certificate (Private/Commercial, etc.), Instrument Rating or Multi-Engine Rating complete the process outlined below. The information you provide will be used to perform a background check. This process must begin within six months or less before you will start your flight training. Once notification of Preliminary Approval (Documentation Accepted) is received from TSA, the flight school then may issue the form I-20 and, if the student is issued a Visa, may initiate the student's ground instruction.

3

TSA Application Process

1. Create an account at <http://www.fts.tsa.dhs.gov/>
2. Select "Register" in the upper right corner
3. You must have your passport or Green Card information to register (contact PRO AIRCRAFT if you have refugee/asylee status)
4. You will be issued a user ID and password for the TSA website which you must keep for use for additional training
5. Once logged in, select "Update Personal Information" to begin your application. The following is information you will need to have ready:
6. Full name, including any aliases or variations in spelling; use only English letters, do not use special characters
7. Date of birth
8. Identifying information such as gender, height, weight, hair, and eye color
9. Country of birth, current country or countries of citizenship, and each previous country of citizenship
10. Starting and ending dates of each citizenship
11. Current pilot certificate(s) and certificate number(s), if any
12. Passport, I-20, and US visa images, and information, including all current and previous passports, I-20s, and, US visas held
13. Current address and telephone number, as well as each address held for longer than 30 days for the five years prior to the date of the application
14. Employment history, including employer contact information (check the box if you are not currently employed)
15. Training information – TSA requires candidates to register for training toward their initial FAA certificate, Instrument Rating, and Multi-Engine Rating (airplane students only). You must register only for the next rating you intend to pursue.

TSA Application: Airplane Courses

Course ID#	Class Name	Aircraft Type
PPL	Private Pilot Certificate	C172
IR	Instrument Rating	C172 PA34
ME	Multi-Engine Rating	PA34

2. Estimated start date (Orientation Date) and end date of flight training. Please note that you cannot request a course training period for more than 364 days.
3. REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION. In order for PRO AIRCRAFT to issue and ship your I-20 (the necessary paperwork to apply for your Visa) you must pay the Registration Fee, pay the I-20 Processing Fee, and submit AND pay for your TSA application.
4. TSA applications can take from a few days to several months to process. View processing periods at <http://www.fts.tsa.dhs.gov/>. If you have any questions regarding when to apply for TSA, call +1- 503-726-3000 and ask to speak with PRO AIRCRAFT 's TSA Advisor. Pro Aircraft will validate your training request within three months prior to the estimated start date provided on your application. Once validated, the TSA directs you to pay a \$130 USD fee which covers the cost of the background/security check. This does not cover the cost of fingerprinting. Your application will not begin processing until payment is received.
5. Check your email frequently for any messages from the TSA. If something is missing or incorrect on your application, the process does not continue until you make the corrections required and resubmit your application.
6. After the TSA accepts all of the above information, you and Pro Aircraft are notified that your documentation has been accepted. This email also provides approval to send TSA your fingerprints (see next step).
7. You must have your fingerprints taken at a TSA-approved location and sent to the TSA. This needs to be done only one time, regardless of the number of times you enter the US for training (as long as you use the same account each time). You will be sent a fingerprinting instruction about one week before orientation date. If you will be in the U.S. for a limited period of time, check for approved fingerprint collectors near you so you can have Flight Approval before you arrive in the U.S. If you go fingerprinting outside the U.S., ensure your application has Documentation Accepted status, the fingerprint card is filled out satisfying TSA's requirements, and that you and the fingerprint official sign the fingerprint cards in the correct fields. Note that there have been complications with TSA processing fingerprint cards if TSA's guidelines are not followed by the applicant and fingerprint collector.
8. Upon arrival to the school, we must verify your passport, application status, and take your picture to send to TSA.
9. TSA notifies you and Pro Aircraft of flight approval once your application is complete, including your fingerprints. You can then begin flight training. If the background check determines you are a risk, flight training must stop immediately.

Receive I-20

1. Receive I-20

2. Verify all information is correct on I-20 and sign the bottom of page

3. Pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (**SEVIS**) Fee before your Embassy appointment. It's required in order for the Department of State to issue you a visa. To pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee, visit **FMJfee.com** to access the SEVIS Form I-901. Watch the **I-901 SEVIS Fee payment tutorial** to learn about each step of the payment process.

Please **click here** for information on how to pay the fee.

Set Appointment for Visa Interview

1. Set Appointment for Visa Interview

2. Once you have your I-20, make an appointment for your visa interview. **Click here** to find a US Embassy near you. Many embassies recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.
3. Pay the visa application fee by following instructions on your local US Embassy's website.
4. Complete the form DS-160 Online. The DS-160 Online, Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, replaces previous nonimmigrant application forms. Be sure to write down your application number as you get started and save the application periodically.
5. Length of stay in the U.S.: M-1—I-20 duration.
6. Address in US: Pro Aircraft's address, 137 Aviator Dr , Fort worth, Texas 76179
7. SEVIS ID is found at the top right of your Form I-20
8. Prepare and bring the following to your visa interview:
 9. A passport valid for at least six months after your intended departure from the US
 10. Form I-20 (sign the form on page 1)
 11. School admission letter
 12. DS-160 Online bar code page
 13. One 2"x 2" photograph
 14. Receipt for the visa application fee
 15. Receipt for the SEVIS fee, if you have not received an official receipt in the mail showing payment and you or Pro Aircraft have paid the fee electronically, the embassy will accept the temporary receipt printed from your computer or sent to you by Pro Aircraft
 16. Financial evidence showing you have sufficient funds to cover your training and living expenses during your intended study period
 17. Information proving that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the United States which may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community
18. You may check the status of your visa **here**.
19. Once you have your visa, be sure to verify that you received the correct visa type (M-1 or F-1). If you did not, contact the embassy where you had your visa interview to have it corrected. Do not enter the US with an incorrect visa type.

Make Travel Arrangements

1. **Make Travel Arrangements**

2. After completing your interview at the US Embassy, make the necessary travel arrangements.
3. Contact the Pro Aircraft flight school admissions department to confirm your arrival date and schedule an airport pick-up, if needed.

Visa Interview Checklist

1

Passport

A passport valid for at least six months after your intended departure from the US

2

Form I-20

Form I-20 (sign the form on page 1)

3

School Admission Letter

School admission letter

4

DS-160 Online

DS-160 Online bar code page

5

Photo

One 2"x 2" photograph

6

Visa Application Fee

Receipt for the visa application fee

7

SEVIS Fee

Receipt for the SEVIS fee, if you have not received an official receipt in the mail showing payment and you or Pro Aircraft have paid the fee electronically, the embassy will accept the temporary receipt printed from your computer or sent to you by Pro Aircraft

8

Financial Evidence

Financial evidence showing you have sufficient funds to cover your training and living expenses during your intended study period

9

Return to Home Country

Information proving that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the United States which may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community