



How to apply for a Social Security Number

You must apply for a social security number after 7 to 10 days have passed, from the date you have completed the program check-in (upon arrival to the U.S.) and your program record is activated in the Student and Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS). If you attempt to apply for a social security number before the SEVIS information has completely been processed through the database, there is a high chance that your application will be denied. Please follow the following directions in order to avoid any problems with obtaining the SSN.

1. Documents to prepare

The following are the documents that you should bring with you when applying for a Social Security Number:

- a. Social Security Number Application Form
- Download the application form at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf>
- b. Passport
- c. J-1 Visa
- d. I-94
- e. DS-2019
- f. DS-7002
- g. A letter from your sponsor addressed to a Social Security officer

2. How to find the nearest social security office

Open the internet link provided below, and input the zip code of either your house or host company in the 'Zip Code' section. Click the "Locate" button. You will be able to find the nearest social security office in your location. Social Security offices are only open on weekdays and close at 4:00 PM. Keep in mind that the office will be very busy, which will require at least an hour for you to complete this process.

Social Security Office Locator: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>