

# F1 Visa Timeline



Team Badlands  
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# Problem Statement

**Problem:** Navigating the visa process is a tiresome hurdle for many international students who come to the United States of America.

**Why:** The necessary information is often hard to find, unclear, and difficult to keep track of.

**Our App:** Our web app makes this process better for international students by clearly breaking down the visa process into manageable steps.

# Final Prototype

## F1 Visa Timeline

Emily ▾



## SEVIS Registration

Start: March 15  
End: April 1

You must pay a fee to register on the SEVIS online database in order to study abroad in the United States. You will need your SEVIS ID from your I-20 (upper right hand corner) in order to pay the fee.

[FORM LINK](#)

### STEPS

- ☒ Fill out the online form at the link above
- ☒ Pay the fee - **\$200** for most students

*Congratulations. You are officially registered in the U.S exchange student database. You are now ready to begin your DS-160.*

[CONTINUE](#)

The process for studying abroad in the United States is **confusing**

The instructions can be **hard to understand** for those who aren't fluent in English

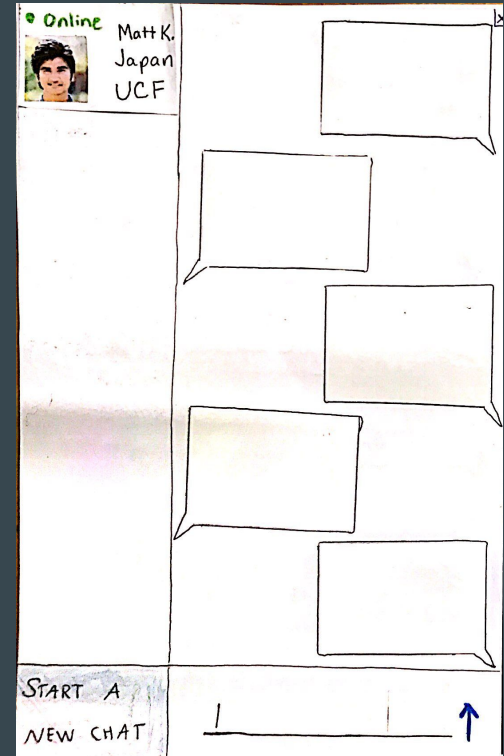
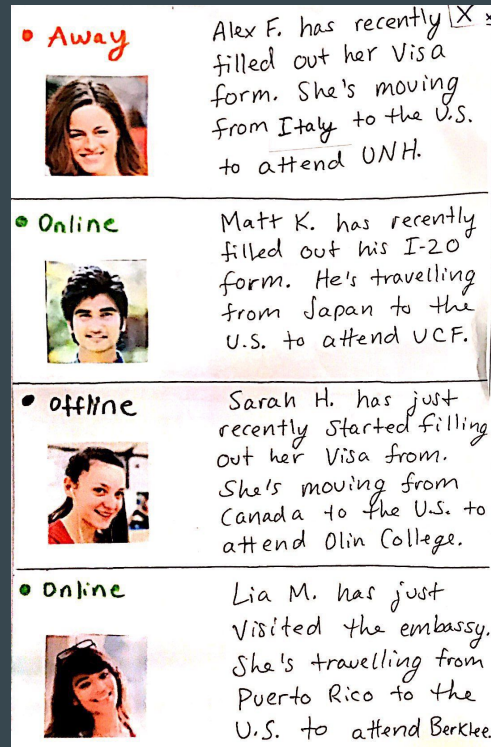
[illegible][illegible]

# Personal Organizer vs. Social Networking App

One of our original prototypes was a “chat-pairing” interface

Allowed users to **connect with other users** and ask questions while using the app

We realized we were trying to design for **two needs at once**, and it wasn't working



# Horizontal Navigation Bar

We found in initial rounds of paper prototype testing that users like a **step-based** approach

Allows for easy **navigation** by having all steps **in one place**

Clearly shows **progress** via the **color** of the bubbles

Helps users visualize **milestones** via the **size** of the bubbles

The screenshot displays a horizontal navigation bar at the top with 14 numbered steps. Steps 1 through 4 are small grey circles, step 5 is a larger green circle, and steps 6 through 14 are medium-sized light blue circles. A blue rectangular box highlights steps 1 through 14. Below the bar, the main content area is titled 'SEVIS Registration' and includes a 'FORM LINK' button, a 'STEPS' section with two checked items, a congratulatory message, and a 'CONTINUE' button. The user's name 'Emily' is visible in the top right corner.

**F1 Visa Timeline** Emily ▾

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10 — 11 — 12 — 13 — 14

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**FORM LINK**

**STEPS**

- ☒ Fill out the online form at the link above
- ☒ Pay the fee - **\$200** for most students

*Congratulations. You are officially registered in the U.S exchange student database. You are now ready to begin your DS-160.*

**CONTINUE**

# Recommended Start and End Dates

We learned through early user research activities that users highly prioritize **due dates**

We clearly show the due date of every step in the top right corner, so it is **easy to find**

We also clearly show a **recommended start date** to help users to stay on top of their tasks

The screenshot displays the 'F1 Visa Timeline' for a user named Emily. A progress bar at the top shows 14 steps, with steps 1 through 5 highlighted in green. Step 5, 'SEVIS Registration', is the current step. To the right of the timeline, a box indicates the recommended dates: 'Start: March 15' and 'End: April 1'. Below the timeline, the 'SEVIS Registration' section provides instructions on paying a fee and using the SEVIS ID. A 'FORM LINK' button is provided for the registration process. Under the 'STEPS' section, two tasks are listed with checkboxes: 'Fill out the online form at the link above' and 'Pay the fee - \$200 for most students'. A congratulatory message states that the user is officially registered and ready to begin their DS-160. A 'CONTINUE' button is located at the bottom of the section.

## F1 Visa Timeline

Emily ▾

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14

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**FORM LINK**

**STEPS**

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**CONTINUE**

**Start: March 15**  
**End: April 1**

# Easy-to-Read Descriptions

From user research, we found visa instructions can be **hard to understand** for those who don't speak English well

We addressed this by making the description of every step **short** and **straightforward**

We tried to avoid using words that might be difficult to understand

## F1 Visa Timeline

Emily ▾

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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11

12

13

14

### SEVIS Registration

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FORM LINK

STEPS

☒ Fill out the online form at the link above

☒ Pay the fee - **\$200** for most students

*Congratulations. You are officially registered in the U.S exchange student database. You are now ready to begin your DS-160.*

CONTINUE

Start: March 15

End: April 1



# Usability Testing

We heard during heuristic evaluations that our **landing page** was confusing



Having the login and create account sections right next to each other made it hard for users to **tell them apart**

They also wanted to the option to sign in with **Facebook** or **Google**

## F1 Visa Timeline - Welcome!

Welcome to Timeline! If you are an exchange student coming to the United States, Timeline helps you organize your F-1 visa process. An F-1 visa requires that you are accepted into a U.S. academic institution and do not plan to take employment.

### Start New

1. Date of Arrival to U.S.  
 
2. Date of Departure from U.S.  
 
3. Nationality  
 ▼
4. I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution. ☐

CONTINUE

### Existing User

Username




Password

LOG IN

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## Create an Account

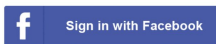
1. Date of Arrival to U.S. 
  2. Date of Departure from U.S. 
  3. Nationality 
  4. I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution. ☐
- CONTINUE**

## Existing User

Username

Password

**LOGIN**



Username  Password  [Forgot Password?](#)




**LOGIN**





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## Create an Account

1. Date of Arrival to U.S. 
  2. Date of Departure from U.S. 
  3. Nationality 
  4. I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution. ☐
- CONTINUE**

# F1 Visa Timeline

Username  Password  [Forgot Password?](#) **LOGIN**  

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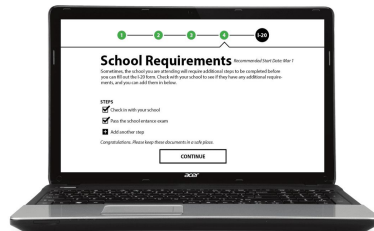
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  3. Nationality 
  4. I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution. ☐
- CONTINUE**

# F1 Visa Timeline

**LOGIN**

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## Create an Account

1. Date of Arrival to U.S. 
  2. Date of Departure from U.S. 
  3. Nationality 
  4. I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution. ☐
- CONTINUE**

Having a **separate login page** was less confusing

Users were more quickly able to understand what the app was when the page was **less crowded**

Users were confused by the application title: F1 Visa Timeline

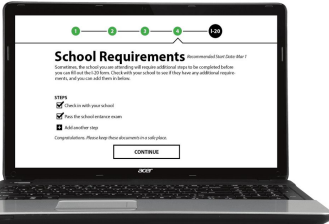


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## Create an Account

- Date of Arrival to U.S.
- Date of Departure from U.S.
- Nationality
- I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution.  
☐

CONTINUE

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# F1 Visa Timeline

LOGIN

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## Timeline

*Your F1 Visa process, simplified*

If you are coming to the United States as an exchange student, you will need a F1 Visa. Let Timeline guide you through the process.

I20

DS160

✓

## Create an Account

- Date of Arrival to U.S.
- Date of Departure from U.S.
- Nationality
- I have been accepted into a U.S. academic institution.  
☐

CONTINUE

# Summary and Future Work

**Goal:** Simplify the visa process into manageable steps that are easy to understand and navigate.

**How?** A step-based timeline that uses mappings of size to show the importance of steps and color to show if a task is completed or not

**Goal:** Create a landing page that both explains the application, and lets a user log in or create an account

**How?** Separate the Google and Facebook login buttons to the next page, because this information isn't necessary at this point. Put the application description in an obvious spot along with a visual.

**Future Work:** Change the title for clarity, and simplify step descriptions to be more concise.

# Questions

## F1 Visa Timeline

[LOGIN](#)

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Emily ▾



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