BEFORE APPLYING FOR AN F-1 VISA

1) **Pay the I-901 (SEVIS) Fee**
   - Everyone applying for an F-1 visa must submit an I-901 form and fee before applying for a visa or requesting entry into the U.S. if a visa is not required. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will issue an official paper receipt (I-797) acknowledging every payment regardless of payment method. You must present a receipt when applying for a F-1 visa and entering the U.S. *Please keep this receipt as a permanent record*. You may need it again!

   I) **On-line submissions with credit or debit card payment**
      1) Visa, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards and Visa and MasterCard debit (check) cards are accepted.
      2) To ensure electronic verification of the fee payment at the consular office, submit the I-901 form and fee electronically at *least three business days* before your visa interview. This will allow time for the payment to be recorded in SEVIS.
         a. Log in to https://www.fmjfee.com/
         b. Select the Pay I-901 and Fee button
         c. The form requires the SEVIS Identification Number on the I-20. This number is in the upper right hand corner of the I-20 and begins with an N and has 10 digits.
         d. The form also requires the "School Code" which is on your I-20. East Georgia State College's Code is: ATL214F01224000.
         e. Choose First class mail (recommended). An official receipt will be mailed to you for your records.
         f. Note, the Credit Card Form has a place for "Cardholder address." You do not need to complete this part, as it is not a required field and space is too small for most international addresses.
         g. Print several copies of the receipt to take with you for your visa interview and entry into the U.S.!
         h. You can check your status by selecting the Check Status button and entering your SEVIS ID, Last Name, and Date of Birth.

2) **Find the U.S. Embassy closest to your home.**
   a. See this web site: http://usembassy.state.gov.
      b. Look for special instructions for the consulate you'll be visiting.