Programs offered by The Center for Talent Development have been identified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and Northwestern University as academic programs that require a student visa for any non-U.S. citizen/permanent resident. Any admitted student who is NOT a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident, or in another visa category that allows for study (e.g. H-4, L-2, etc.), must request sponsorship for a student visa. Failure to comply may negatively impact a student’s ability to secure another non-immigrant visa in the future from a U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad. A B-1/B-2 visitor/tourist visa does not permit study at Northwestern University in the summer program.

I-20 Request Process
An I-20 is a certificate issued to students by Northwestern University enabling them to apply for an F-1 visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad. All non-U.S. citizens participating in the CTD Summer Program must obtain an F-1 student visa prior to their arrival on campus. To begin the process of obtaining an F-1 student visa, students (or a parent or family member) must complete and return an I-20 Request Form to Northwestern University’s International Office. Please note that the I-20 Request will take 10 business days to process at the International Office and requires a processing fee.

Please follow the steps for New Students found here: https://magic.piktochart.com/output/4879098-how-to-get-a-student-visa

Submit the completed I-20 Request Form along with all supporting documents directly via e-mail to Emlyn Torres at the International Office (e-torres@northwestern.edu). Incomplete and incorrect applications will delay the processing of the I-20 request. Upon issuance, the document will be given to CTD for shipment. All inquiries regarding shipping, tracking numbers, etc. should be directed to the CTD program.

I-901 SEVIS Fee
Once an I-20 has been issued, The Center for Talent Development will ship it to you. Prior to shipment, you will be notified via email of your students SEVIS ID. Using this ID, you must then pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee.

NOTE: Upon payment, you will receive a “receipt”—be sure to retain this receipt for your records and for the visa appointment at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy.

F-1 Visa Acquisition
Once the I-901 SEVIS Fee has been paid, and you have received an I-20 from Northwestern, it is now time to schedule the visa interview at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your country/city to request an F-1 visa. Keep in mind that processing times vary. You should not schedule an appointment until you have received the I-20 from Northwestern.

Entry in F-1 Status
Listed in Section #5 on the I-20 is the program start date. Students entering the U.S. in F-1 status for the CTD Summer Program may not enter the U.S. any earlier than 30-days prior to this date. If you intend to travel in the U.S. prior to the start of the program, and wish to enter before 30-days prior to the program start-date, please contact the International Office for additional information.

Upon arrival in the U.S., F-1 students must check-in at the International Office. Residential staff will assist students once they have registered with CTD and the Summer Program has begun. All students must be in possession of their passport, I-94 Card, and original signed I-20 to campus. These documents will be reviewed by the International Office.

ALL students must check in with the International Office, including Leapfrog students AND commuter students. If the student does NOT check in with their paperwork, the visa may be revoked, and the student may not be allowed to return to the United States.