

Listed below are the procedures necessary to obtain the Certificate of Eligibility I-20 (F-1 student visa) or the DS-2019 (J-1 student visa). The process for issuing your Certificate of Eligibility will begin once you have been admitted to the University and have submitted the necessary documentation to our office by the application deadline. Please submit the Declaration and Certification of Finances form by email iadmiss@fiu.edu.

Declaration and Certification of Finances

As part of the application process you must complete the Declaration and Certification of Finances (DCF) and provide a copy of your passport. Additionally, if you are currently on a visa please provide a copy of your current visa information. The University is required by immigration authorities to carefully check the financial resources of each applicant prior to issuing the Form I-20/DS-2019. Failure to comply with requirements may delay your visa and date of entry to the US. **Do not enter the U.S. on a B-1/B-2 (tourist) visa or visa waiver; students who enter on a B-1/B-2 visa are prohibited from enrolling in academic courses and must leave the U.S. to return on the appropriate F-1 or J-1 visa.**

Please Note: We will accept copies, scans or faxes, but be aware that the Embassy/Consulate will require original financial information, which matches the information on the I-20 or DS-2019 during the visa appointment. Submitting inadequate or falsified information will jeopardize the issuance of the student visa. Financial documents must be current, within 30 days of the date they are submitted to International Admissions.

Cost of Attendance

The DCF must reflect the annual estimated cost of graduate or undergraduate attendance as stated below. If you are admitted to Summer you must show support which reflects the cost of Summer attendance as well as the annual cost of the full academic year.

Annual Estimate of Graduate Costs 2020 - 2021			
	Fall & Spring	Summer	Total Cost (Fall, Spring & Summer)
	9 credit hours per semester	6 credit hours per semester	24 credit hours
Tuition & Fees	\$18,428	\$6,209	\$24,637
Living Expenses	\$17,808	\$8,904	\$26,712
Books & Supplies	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,500
Medical Insurance	\$2,923		\$2,923
Total	\$40,159	\$15,613	\$55,772
Annual Estimate of Undergraduate Costs 2020 – 2021			
	Fall & Spring	Summer	Total Cost (Fall, Spring & Summer)
	15 credit hours per semester	12 credit hours per semester	42 credit hours
Tuition & Fees	\$18,964	\$7,625	\$26,589
Living Expenses	\$15,460	\$7,730	\$23,190
Books & Supplies	\$1,350	\$675	\$2,025
Medical Insurance	\$2,923		\$2,923
Total	\$38,697	\$16,030	\$54,727
Annual Estimate of Costs for First-Time College Students & Athletes 2020 – 2021			
	Fall & Spring	Summer B/Early Fall	Total Cost (Fall, Spring & Summer)
	15 credit hours per semester	6 credit hours per semester	36 credit hours
Tuition & Fees	\$18,964	\$3,912	\$22,876
Living Expenses	\$15,460	\$4,034	\$19,494
Books & Supplies	\$1,350	\$675	\$2,025
Medical Insurance	\$2,923	\$505	\$3,428
Total	\$38,697	\$9,126	\$47,823

Annual estimate of costs are based on the 2020 – 2019 Financial Aid Student Budgets available on the OneStop website:

<https://onestop.fiu.edu/finances/#/finances/estimate-your-costs/>. Tuition and fees are subject to change and are estimates; costs do not reflect actual required payments to FIU. International students must be enrolled full-time to maintain their visa status. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is at least 12 credit hours per semester. Full-time graduate enrollment is at least 9 credit hours. Students who are admitted in the Summer C semester must enroll full time; students admitted to Summer B must enroll for 6 credit hours.

Living expenses are estimated at \$1,932/month for undergraduates and \$2,226/month for graduate students to cover room, board, transportation and incidentals. Undergraduate room cost is based on on-campus housing while graduate costs are based on off-campus room rates. Costs for private accommodations off-campus are significantly higher. Students should be aware that often the first month's rent is higher to fund security deposit, upfront rent, electricity, water and telephone. It is estimated that at least twice the normal monthly amount is needed for the first month to cover deposits and settling in expenses.

Students who will be living with a parent or sponsor may calculate their living expenses at \$1,224 per month to cover room & board, transportation and personal expenses. The cost of Fall and Spring is \$9,796, while Summer is \$4,898. In order to provide a reduced DCF form, the student must present a Room & Board Letter that includes the name of the parent/sponsor where he/she will be residing. This letter must be notarized by a U.S. Notary Public. **Please be aware current F-1/J-1 students may not sponsor other F-1/J-1 students.**

Medical Insurance

All international students are required to carry medical insurance, which meets University requirements. A policy is available for purchase online from Student Health Services: <http://studenthealth.fiu.edu>. Health insurance coverage for a full year, August 17, 2019 to August 16, 2020, is \$2,923 for a student and \$2,923 each for a child and/or spouse. Students admitted into the Summer term pay an additional premium for Summer only medical insurance either \$792 for Summer A/C or \$505 for Summer B/Early Fall, otherwise insurance premiums are paid on an annual basis and cover Fall term – Summer term. To learn more about insurance please visit this website: <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/health-and-fitness/student-health/insurance/international-students/index.php>

Current F-1 or J-1 Student Visa Holders

If you are currently holding an F-1 or J-1 student visa and plan to transfer from another U.S. institution to FIU you must also submit a DCF with supporting documents as indicated above. **Your current institution must release your SEVIS record to FIU before your new Form I-20/DS-2019 will be issued; this happens only after you are admitted to FIU.** Therefore, you need to complete the top section of the F-1 Student Transfer Form (page 5) including your current U.S. address, and have the international student advisor at your current/previous school complete the bottom section. Once we have received the form and your SEVIS record has been released, we will begin the process to issue a new Form I-20/DS-2019.

Information in SEVIS must be electronically forwarded to FIU before issuance of the new Form I-20/DS-2019 will be possible. Your SEVIS record will only be released at the end of the term in which you are currently enrolled.

Please do not plan any international travel without making appropriate arrangements for securing your new I-20/DS-2019 in advance. A minimum of two full weeks processing time is needed for your I-20/DS-2019 to be ready once all documents are received and approved. You must use a courier service if you leave the country without receiving your transfer I-20; you are strongly encouraged not to leave the country without your transfer I-20. International Admissions cannot guarantee faster processing time.

Current F-1 or J-1 Student Visa Holder Not in Status

If you are not in status at the time of your admissions offer, there are two options, reinstatement or reentry into the United States. The process of reinstatement is lengthy and requires the approval by your previous institution, their request to SEVIS to reinstate your record and approval by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Your previous institution will not submit a reinstatement request, if you are not currently enrolled as a fulltime student, this includes if you have completed your program or have stayed beyond the 60-day grace period. For reentry, International Admissions will issue you a new initial I-20 and request that you “restart” your F-1 status by reentering the United States. It is not suggested to make new entry into the United States by way of the Caribbean. Taking a cruise is also not a viable reentry option. **International Admissions strongly encourages the issuance of a new I-20 and reentry to the U.S. in most cases.** Your new initial I-20 and new SEVIS number will require you to pay the SEVIS fee; you may not need a new F-1, if your F-1 visa is still valid. Please retain your expired I-20.

Students with Dependents

Students who plan to bring their dependent(s) to the U.S. will require additional financial support to cover the dependents and must complete page 2 of the DCF form. The additional financial support should be reflected on the student’s DCF form page 3 in the amount of \$6,000 for his/her spouse and \$4,000 for each child. Additional insurance for the family of F-1 students is optional, but highly recommended. Medical insurance is required for all J-2 dependents. F-2 dependents are not permitted to work, but may enroll part-time in university coursework.

I-20/DS-2019 Delivery Options

You may elect to have your I-20/DS-2019 sent to you by courier service, picked up at FIU at the International Admissions office located in the SASC building or sent by standard mail. The courier service is expensive, but it is the only way to ensure timely delivery of your documents with a tracking number. FIU utilizes University Express Mail Service: <https://study.eshipglobal.com> as our courier. **Do not sign up with the courier until you have been admitted.** Students who do not choose to use the courier may arrange to pick up or request someone to pick up their Form I-20/DS-2019 on their behalf. Identification is necessary in order to release the documents, so please make sure to have a Panther ID, Driver’s License or Passport for picking up documents. **Please also bring a copy of the email notification indicating your I-20 is ready for pick-up. It is not possible to pick-up your I-20 unless you been told it is ready for pick-up.** In the case you do not wish to use the courier or have your I-20/DS-2019 picked up, FIU will send your documents by United States Postal Service to the address included on the DCF. We cannot guarantee delivery success or the timeline required.

Next Steps

Once you receive your Initial I-20/DS-2019 you should proceed to pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee, schedule an appointment at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate and apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa. You can review these steps here: <https://internationaladmissions.fiu.edu/last-steps/>. International Student and Scholar Services provides helpful pre-arrival guide on their website (<https://globalaffairs.fiu.edu/iss/international-students/new-f1-students/>).

Family Name/Surname(s):

First Name(s):

Panther ID:

THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED BY ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS NEEDING F-1 OR J-1 VISAS.

Student Annual Financial Support in U.S. Dollars (USD)

Each type and amount of financial support listed below must be accompanied by valid supporting financial documents

A. Personal Savings

Amount U.S. \$

B. 1. Family/Sponsor Funds (If full or partial financial support is from family/sponsor)

Amount U.S. \$

Full Name

Relationship

Email Address

2. Family/Sponsor Funds

Amount U.S. \$

Full Name

Relationship

Email Address

C. Florida International University Scholarship or Departmental Funding

Amount U.S. \$

Department/Scholarship

Contact Person

D. Government/Other Organizational Sponsorship Funds

Amount U.S. \$

Name of Agency

Contact Person

Agency Address

Email Address

Telephone

Total the support listed above in A, B, C and D and enter in the section below. This total amount should be reflected on the supporting documents that you submit either on page 4 or as described below.

Total Amount of Financial Support

Amount U.S. \$

Supporting Financial Documents

In addition to this form, you are required to submit valid supporting financial documents certifying that you have sufficient funds available to cover expenses for your first year at FIU. Documents may be submitted electronically, no more than 30 days older than the date of submission, officially translated in English and issued by a financial institution or agency verifying access to the funds. For more information see the instructions to this form or <https://internationaladmissions.fiu.edu/submit-documents/>.

- A. Personal funds – A recent bank statement or bank letter or you may use page 4 as your bank letter.
- B. Funds from family or sponsor – A recent bank statement or letter along with an affidavit of support containing both student’s and sponsor’s name, relationship, and amount of funds available for the purpose of the applicant’s studies. You may use page 4 of this form as your affidavit of support or include the same information in a bank letter. Funds should be shown at current USD exchange rate.
- C. FIU Scholarship or Departmental Funding – Please indicate the type of funding or scholarship name and the Departmental Contact in the section above, so we may verify.
- D. Government or other sponsoring agency – a signed copy of the scholarship or award letter stating the amount, name of recipient and duration of award.
- Examples of financial documents that **will not** be accepted include:
 - Annual salary statement, pay stubs, credit card statements
 - Real estate
 - Investments, stocks, retirement plans, insurance policies, or other accounts which money cannot be withdrawn

Student Signature:

Date:

Family Name/Surname(s):

First Name(s):

Panther ID:

***THIS PAGE IS TO ASSIST WITH THE BANK & SPONSOR LETTER.
IT IS NOT REQUIRED, IF SUBMITTING OTHER DOCUMENTATION.***

Affidavit of Support

Please complete this section if you will be receiving funds from a family member or sponsor. Submit with an appropriate bank letter with matching funds.

I, _____ hereby certify that I am willing and able to provide U.S. \$ _____
(Print Name of Family Member/Sponsor)

to meet the expenses incurred by _____ during the length of the student's academic
(Print Student's Full Name)

study to which this application pertains. My relationship to the student is that of _____

I have authorized the release of my supporting financial documents to verify the promised financial resources are available to me for the support of the student listed above. I affirm that I understand the content of this affidavit signed by me and the statements are true and correct.

Signature of Sponsor/Family Member:

Date:

Bank Certification Letter

To be completed by a bank official. If your bank cannot complete this form, please have a representative issue a letter in English with the below information included. Please include the bank seal or stamp in this section.

In compliance with the request of our account holder, _____, we state that on the close of
(Name of Account Holder)

of business _____ the deposit balance to the credit of the above-named individual as shown in our records is currently the
(Month/Day/Year)

following amount U.S. \$ _____. This account was opened on _____. To the best of our knowledge
(use daily conversion rate) (Month/Day/Year)

of the banking laws in this country, these funds may be sent out of the country to support the educational needs of the above-named student in the United States.

Name of Bank:

Address of Bank:

Name of Bank Official:

Title of Bank Official:

Telephone Number:

Bank Seal or Bank Stamp

Signature of Bank Official:

Date:

Student Signature:

Date:

Return the form with signature(s) and bank seal/stamp by email to iadmiss@fiu.edu. **NOTE:** Originals must be provided to the Consulate during your visa appointment.