

International Prospective Students:

From Acceptance to Registration

A majority of the accepted international students will enter the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 student visa. For general information about studying in the U.S. please visit:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security – <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

U.S. Department of State – <https://educationusa.state.gov/>

In order for potential prospective students to obtain a student visa, they must first go through the procedure of obtaining an I-20 (F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (J-1 visa) immigration document that is issued by LLU International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS). The following is a detailed step by step process to obtain the I-20/DS-2019.

Step 1: Apply to the program

- Complete application online at <http://www.llu.edu/apply/>

Step 2: Acceptance to the program

- Once acceptance has been granted the student will complete a confirmation of acceptance online. ISSS will contact the accepted student via email and send a financial estimate and an information packet on how to obtain the I-20/DS-2019.
- Some schools require a class holding fee to be paid directly to the school. If a fee is required, please pay it as soon as possible since the fee payment must be received in order for the prospective student to be “fully accepted” to the program.

Step 3: Financial Documentation & Deposit

- ISSS will send a *Certification of Finance* and *Acknowledgment* forms to the accepted student via email. Both forms will have to be completed and returned to ISSS along with proof of financial funding (i.e. bank statement, bank letter, loan approval notice).
- Financial funding can come from any source as long as the sponsor or source can show financial documentation that is dated within three months of the date ISSS will issue the I-20/DS-2019. If the sponsor is a U.S. Citizen or U.S. Permanent Resident, the sponsor must also complete the I-134 *Affidavit of Support* form. This form can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov>.
- International Student refundable deposit: Most accepted international students are required to pay an advanced deposit before ISSS can release the I-20. The *Certification of Finance* form will list the required deposit. Payment must be made to Student Finance by check (demand draft), credit card, or wire transfer.

Step 4: Processing the I-20/DS-2019

- Once ISSS receives the financial documents and the deposit has been paid, ISSS will process the correct immigration document and send it to the student. Form I-20 is for the F-1 student visa and can be emailed and/or sent through FEDEX to the student. Form DS-2019 is for the J-1 student visa and can only be sent through FEDEX.

Step 5: Apply for F-1/J-1 Student Entry Visa

- After the student receives the I-20/DS-2019, they must use it to apply at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate for the student visa:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>

Step 6: Pre-Arrival Check-In & Arrival in U.S.

- Before a student enters the U.S., they will schedule a Pre-Arrival check-in via Zoom with ISSS.
- When the student arrives in the U.S., they have 10 days to report to ISSS in person.