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FORM I-20 INSTRUCTIONS & APPLICATION

2022-2023 Academic Year

The information in this document explains the process to get your Form I-20 for an F-1 visa. Please read it carefully and follow the directions completely in order to avoid delays in getting your I-20. This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant international students.

Please read this document in full.

What is a Form I-20 and why do you need one?

A Form I-20 is a government form that certifies that you are eligible for F-1 Student Status. That means that: (1) you are or expected to be a “bona fide” (real) student; (2) you meet our admissions requirements; (3) you will pursue a full course of study; (4) you proved to us that you have enough money to study and live in the US without working illegally or suffering from poverty.

You need a Form I-20 to obtain an F-1 Student visa or status, or to keep lawful F-1 status when transferring or changing schools within the US.

What are the rules for getting your Form I-20 and other items to consider?

1. Be accepted to a full-time program of study.
2. Be able to prove to us that you can support the cost of living and studying in the US at LIU for every year of your program of study. THIS IS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ISSUE THE FORM I-20.
3. On-campus employment is limited and competitive; off-campus employment is strictly controlled by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Do not expect to be able to work in the US to help meet your annual costs.
4. Carefully review our school’s “Estimated Annual Costs”. This is the amount that you must prove that you can support for every year in your program of study. Liquid funding for the first year of the program must be available. For subsequent years, funds in a bank account can also be used or proof of the ability to pay (ie: tax return or other income statement) can be used.
5. The financial requirements are not negotiable. They represent a modest average budget that does not include luxuries of any kind. We strongly recommend that you budget at least 10% more if possible.

Students and their families should look closely at the costs of living and studying at LIU and make careful plans to be sure your needs will be met.

6. Expect annual increases in tuition and living costs each year.

7. Sometimes, we may have to ask you to give us more proof of your funding- perhaps more than once. The U.S. government requires that we be sure, to the best of our ability, that you will have enough financial support during your stay.

Steps to complete the I-20 Process

1. Complete the I-20 application.
2. Have your sponsor(s) complete the sponsor's affidavit and attach the required evidence.
3. Submit a copy of your passport.
4. If dependents (spouse and/or children under the age of 21) will be accompanying you to LIU, you must submit copies of their passport and marriage certificate (if applicable). You will need to show additional funding for dependents.
5. Submit all documents in one email to the ISS office at your respective campus.

Funding Sources & Evidence Requirements

ALL DOCUMENTS YOU GIVE US MUST BE: Less than two months old and in English.

1. Funds from Sponsors (parents, relatives, friends, organizations). You may have as many sponsors as you need. Sponsors may provide you with support in the form of money and/or room and board. Each sponsor must complete the affidavit of support. A bank statement showing the available funds for the first year is required. For the subsequent years of the program, proof of the ability to pay is required. This can be in the form of personal income tax returns, pay stubs, etc. It cannot be from a business account. If there is no proof of income, the bank statement amount will be divided among the years of the program.

Free room and board is when you live with someone and don't have to pay for your room or food. Please request the separate application for free room and board.

2. Personal Funds come from your own resources, not those of anyone else. If your parents put money in your bank account, we will ask you to submit the evidence required of sponsors. Unless you have enough cash to support yourself for your entire program of study or can prove other sources of personal income, you will need a sponsor with an income sufficient to support you.
3. Funds from this School such as, a scholarship, assistantship, or fellowship. Not all College support covers the entire program of study or all expenses, so you most likely need additional support to meet your minimum annual costs for other living expenses, health insurance, etc.
4. Funds from an organizational or governmental scholarship: Copy of the final award letter from the organization on official letterhead. For non-governmental scholarships, you must also provide a bank statement or bank letter validating that funds detailed in the award letter are available for disbursement to the university.

2022-2023 ESTIMATED FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Undergraduate Student Annual Expenses*

Tuition/Fees (24 credits/year)	\$40,868
Living Expenses**	\$18,378
Books/Supplies	\$2,000
Health Insurance	\$4,100
TOTAL***	\$65,346

Graduate/Master's Student Annual Expenses*

Tuition/Fees (18 credits/year)	\$25,017
Living Expenses**	\$18,378
Books/Supplies	\$1,500
Health Insurance	\$4,100
TOTAL***	\$48,995

Doctoral Student Annual Expenses*

Tuition/Fees (18 credits/year)	\$33,918
Living Expenses**	\$18,378
Books/Supplies	\$1,500
Health Insurance	\$4,100
TOTAL***	\$57,896

*All fees are estimated in U.S. dollars and are subject to change.

**Includes estimated on-campus room, board, transportation and personal expenses for fall and spring semesters.

***For dependents, add an additional \$8,128 per year for a spouse dependent and \$5,588 per year for each child dependent.