

What is an I-20 form?

When Intercultural Communications College admits a student, we send the student a form called the I-20. This form indicates your course of study and the length of your course. The form I-20 allows a student to apply for a F-1 student visa.

How do I apply for a student visa?

After you receive your I-20, you have to schedule a visa interview at a US Embassy or Consulate in your home country. Please note that the I-20 does not guarantee receipt of an F-1 visa. The local Consular official makes the final decision on whether or not to issue you a student visa.

When can I enter the U.S.A.?

Visa regulations allow you to enter the USA up to 30 days before the first day of classes (the start date shown on your I-20). You will not be able to enter the USA more than 30 days before the start of your study. Please plan your flight carefully.

What happens if I cannot arrive by the first day of classes?

Please contact us as soon as possible. We can revise your study start and end dates and issue you a new I-20 for the new study dates.

What are my obligations as a student on an F-1 visa?

Students on an F-1 visa must follow the regulations of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. According to these regulations, you must:

- Register for classes at the university that issued the I-20
- Be enrolled as a full-time student while you are in the U.S.A.
- Keep your passport current
- Request assistance from your foreign student advisor if you wish to transfer from one university to another.

How long can I stay in the U.S.A.?

The I-20 indicates the length of time you can stay to finish your course of studies. Once you

have finished your studies, generally, you may stay in the U.S.A for no more than 60 days from your last day of study. You can extend your study and your I-20 after you arrive at ICC.

Can I bring my dependents with me while I am studying?

Yes. Dependents may come to the U.S.A with a student, each dependent will be issued their own I-20 in order to apply for the F-2 dependent visa.

If I want to extend my studies after the study end date, may I stay longer?

If you want to continue your English studies past your original study end date, the staff at ICC will help you apply for an extension.

Can I shorten my studies after arriving?

Yes, you can shorten your studies after arriving but you will not be entitled to the 60 day stay past your study end date. You will only be allowed 15 days to remain in the U.S.A. after shortening your studies or you will be in violation of your visa status.

If I need to return home for a temporary visit, what do I need to do?

You may leave the country for a temporary absence of no more than 5 months (150 days). Before you leave the country come see us to discuss the situation. Your I-20 may need to be extended and the third page of your I-20 must be signed before you leave.

If my visa expires, how do I renew it?

The F-1 visa is for entering the United States only. The visa needs to be valid only at the time you enter the U.S.A. It does not need to be renewed as long as you stayed enrolled in school full-time, have a new I-20 issued covering the new or extended dates of study, provide proof of financial ability to pay additional tuition, fees and rent, and have a current passport. However, if you wish to or need to depart the U.S.A during your study period and your visa has expired, ask us for information about how to renew your visa. You may apply for a new visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your home country or another country you are visiting. The F-1 visa cannot be renewed in the U.S.A.