



ESL PROGRAM I-20 APPLICATION AND INFORMATION

As an international ESL student, you are required to get a Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 from the university. The I-20 is needed prior to applying for an F1 student visa. You will need both, the I-20 and the student visa upon your entrance into the United States, unless you are currently under another visa status in the U.S. which allows you to also study in the U.S.

We recommend that you apply for your I-20 as soon as possible, but no later than the following application deadlines to help you receive your documents in time for the start of your program:

Program Start	I-20 Application Deadline*
August	July 15
January	Nov 26

If you are accepted after these deadline dates, or are unable to submit the I-20 application by the above deadlines, please get your application in as soon as possible and applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis.

*These deadlines do not guarantee your ability to obtain a visa in time for the start of our semester. Please check with your local Embassy/Consulate to see how long it takes to get a visa appointment. Make sure you have sufficient time to apply and receive your I-20 from us and then to make a visa appointment, receive your visa and arrive here on campus by the start of the semester. If you are unable to be on campus for the first day of classes, you will need to defer your attendance to a future semester.

You may not use your I-20 for entry into the U.S. more than 30 days prior to your program start date.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION FOR FORM I-20:

1. Pages 3-4 of the application
2. A copy of your information/picture page of passport
3. Submit financial documentation showing financial capability for 1st year (see p. 5 for details)
4. If you have been granted a scholarship or award, submit a copy of the award letter or contract.
5. Complete all health services documents and requirements

All required documents must be received and you must be accepted into the ESL program before your I-20 will be issued. When you receive your ESL I-20 document from Niagara University, important instructions will be enclosed on how to further complete the international student process.

Note: The I-20 is only a Certificate of Eligibility that indicates to the U.S. government that you have met all the requirements, according to regulations, for the issuance of that document. It does not insure that your visa will be approved, nor grant you automatic permission to enter the U.S.

Any questions, please contact:

Sarina Munzi, International Student Advisor/SEVIS Coordinator
Brennan Center/International Relations
5795 Lewiston Road – 133 DePaul Hall
PO Box 1944
Niagara University, NY 14109
716-286-8728 716-286-8303 Fax
Email: smunzi@niagara.edu Website: www.niagara.edu/international

NOTIFICATION OF SEVIS FEE:

DO NOT PAY THIS FEE UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR I-20 DOCUMENT

All international students are required to pay a \$350 SEVIS fee directly to the US government. **You can only pay this fee after your I-20 has been issued.** You must pay this fee prior to your visa appointment. If not, they may cancel it and require you to reschedule for another appointment. You **cannot** pay this fee at the embassy/consulate.

Options for Payment:

- ELECTRONICALLY: using a credit card at www.fmjfee.com (RECOMMENDED METHOD)
- WESTERN UNION QUICK PAY: See the instructions at: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu_instr.htm

We recommend you print your I-901 SEVIS fee receipt. You are not required to present it at your visa appointment; however, it is a good idea to carry that documentation with you. If you did not print the receipt when you made the payment, you can go back to www.fmjfee.com to print it.



2021-2022 APPLICATION FOR FORM I-20 ESL PROGRAM

(Not for students attending exchange or academic program at NU)

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Sarina Munzi, International Student Advisor/SEVIS Coordinator at smunzi@niagara.edu

PART I: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name in Passport: _____
FIRST (Given) MIDDLE FAMILY (Surname)
(SUBMIT A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT IDENTIFICATION PAGE WITH THIS APPLICATION)

Permanent address in home country: _____
HOUSE NUMBER STREET
CITY CITY/PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: ____ Male ____ Female Native Language: _____
Month Day Year

Country of Birth: _____ Country of Citizenship: _____ City of Birth: _____

Will any dependents (spouse and/or child(ren)) accompany you to the U.S. during your studies? ____ NO ____ YES*

If 'YES' submit:

*A list of those name(s), date of birth, country of birth, country of citizenship and relationship to you

*Copy of passport identification/photo page & marriage certificate for spouse; birth certificate for child(ren)

While attending Niagara University, I plan to:

____ Live on Campus (NOTE: this form does **NOT** reserve housing for you)

____ Live off-campus in the US at the address listed below (write "TBD" if you do not know the address yet)

STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP LOCAL TELEPHONE

When will you begin the ESL program*? ____ August (Fall) ____ January (Spring) YEAR: _____

***You must be fully accepted into the ESL program and all required documents received before the I-20 will be issued.**

PART II: IF YOU ARE ALREADY IN THE UNITED STATES, COMPLETE THIS SECTION. (If not, check here _____ and go on to PART III)

If you are already in the U.S., what is your **current** immigration status?

____ In a visa status other than F1 Student Visa (please specify): _____

____ In F-1 Student status transferring from another U.S. School. My current SEVIS ID Number is: _____

*Req. 'Transfer-In' form from our office & contact your current school's DSO to start the "School Transfer" process.

PART III: HOW DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR I-20?

_____ BY MAIL: Your I-20 will be mailed by regular mail (select one):
 _____ Permanent Address _____ Current Address

_____ BY EXPRESS MAIL: Student must arrange and pay for express mail by going to: <https://study.eshipglobal.com>

PART IV: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants are responsible for all costs of attending Niagara University. You and/or your sponsor must sign the financial verification statements at the end of this application indicating you are responsible for all costs. If you have questions about payment options, please contact our Student Accounts Office (sao@niagara.edu)

ONE YEAR ESL TUITION/FEES/LIVING EXPENSES*

Fees quoted below are estimates only and in U.S. funds.

TUITION & FEES	8,490.00
BOOKS/SUPPLIES	400.00
ROOM/BOARD/LIV EXP.	12,400.00
MEDICAL INSUR.*	2,600.00
TOTAL	\$23,890.00

*Students are required to meet the terms of the university's medical requirements

Dependents: Add \$6500 for EACH dependent (spouse and/or child(ren) you will bring to live with you in the U.S.

1. Your minimum financial requirements \$23,890.00
2. List how you will support your annual expenses below:
 - A) **Personal Funds:** Financial documents in your name \$ _____
 - B) **Sponsor** (family member/person/company/organization) _____ \$ _____
 - C) **Scholarship/Assistantship** (name) _____ \$ _____
3. Total funding: Equal, or more, than minimum financial requirements in line 1. \$ _____

PART V: FINANCIAL VERIFICATION STATEMENTS

Sponsor signature(s): I certify that I agree to provide the funds required for all years of study at Niagara University and am submitting bank documents to prove this financial capability.

Sponsor 1 _____ Relationship to applicant _____ Date _____

Sponsor 2 _____ Relationship to applicant _____ Date _____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: *I hereby certify the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I understand the information will be provided to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the SEVIS system to issue my I-20 document. I am fully aware that any false or misleading statement will result in automatic denial, or revocation of admissions.*

 Applicant's Signature

 Date

ACCEPTABLE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

(This page is only for your use; do not submit with your application)

Acceptable Documents:

- Statements or letters for: Savings or checking accounts Line of Credit accounts Loans Retirement Funds (funds must be immediately available; must allow for early withdrawal) Scholarships (Private/Government/School)
- Certificate of Deposits (CD) statements (maturity date must be earlier than applicant's start date)

All financial documents must be:

- On institution's official letterhead
- Dated within six months prior to applicant's enrollment.
- In English, or submitted with a certified translation of the document(s).
- If not in U.S. funds, institution must include the U.S. equivalency for the available balance.
- Photocopies, faxed, scanned & emailed or original financial documents must be clear.

Please visit: <https://www.niagara.edu/assets/Uploads/Financial-Examples-for-I20.pdf> for an example of acceptable financial documents.

Documents not accepted:

- Employer letters or salary statements.
- Documents for non-liquid funds or property.
- Stock market statements or letters.
- Value of home
- Tax documents
- Bank statements not in your name, unless with signature of sponsor's financial verification.