

Hostos Community College International Student Services

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING AN I-20 CERTIFICATE

Do not enter the United States only to find yourself out of status.

- You must be admitted to Hostos Community College. To enter the United States with any visa other than F-1 could be considered fraud and make you a criminal in the eyes of the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- If you have a current B-1/B-2 visa, do not come to the United States with it. If you apply for a new visa other than F-1 Student, you must state clearly on your visa application that you intend to be a student and ask for a "PROSPECTIVE STUDENT" notation on your visa. If you do not do this, and enter the United States in the wrong status, you will not be eligible to change to F-1 student status. Hostos Community College International Student Services Office cannot assist you in making an application for a change.

ATTENTION, STUDENTS FROM:

ANDORRA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BRUNEI, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, LIECHTENSTEIN, LUXEMBOURG, MONACO, THE NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SAN MARINO, SINGAPORE, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND URUGUAY.

Do not enter the United States without a visa. Though citizens of your country are permitted to visit the United States without applying for visas at consulates or embassies, entry without visa restricts you to staying as a **tourist or business visitor only** and **only for 90 days**.

If you enter without a visa, you will not be able to stay in legal status after 90 days under any circumstances. You cannot extend your permission to stay and you cannot change to student status.

What is the I-20 Certificate?

This is the certificate of Eligibility for F-1 (Student) Status. The I-20 Certificate may be issued only to students:

- 1. who have been admitted to Hostos Community College for a full-time program
- 2. who plan to register for a full-time course of study each semester at HCC and
- 3. provide sufficient evidence of financial support to live and study in the United States for 2-3 years without employment

Who needs to obtain the I-20 Certificate?

There are strict United States government regulations which decide who may receive an I-20 Certificate. Students who are outside the United States must have the I-20 Certificate in order to obtain the F-1 visa to enter the U.S. and attend school.

OR

Students who are currently in the United States may be eligible to receive the I-20 Certificate. Although some students are not eligible to receive this Certificate, this does not mean that they cannot attend HCC. If you are not sure whether or not you are eligible to receive this form, please ask your International Student advisor.

What do I do if I am a F-1 student INSIDE the United States?

If you are an F-1 student at another school, you do not need the I-20 Certificate before coming to HCC. Immigration regulations state that you must submit your financial documentation to HCC and sign your new I-20 Certificate **no later than the 15th day of classes at HCC**.

DO NOT TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S. ON YOUR FORMER SCHOOL'S I-20. You will lose your legal status if you use the certificate I-20 of your old school and then do not return to classes there. Students will not be permitted to travel until they are registered for classes at HCC. If it is imperative that you travel, you must first get the required financial papers to the International Student Services so that a HCC I-20 Certificate for traveling be issued.

What do I do if I am an international student OUTSIDE of the United States?

1. How to get an F-1 visa at your U.S. embassy or consulate?

You cannot be issued an F-1 visa without the I-20 Certificate. Do not worry about the visa at this time. The most important thing to do is to send the HCC International Student Services acceptable proof of financial ability. When the financial papers are approved, HCC will send you the I-20 Certificate and your original financial papers, which you must have to apply for your visa.

2. What is the F-1 visa?

Your visa is only your travel document. It does not give you permission to enter the United States. When your visa is issued, the embassy or consulate will return the I-20 Certificate to you in a sealed envelope, which is to be presented to the United States Immigration at the port of entry. The permission to enter the United States is given at the port of entry on a document known as the I-94, a small white card, which will be stapled inside your passport. The Immigration Inspector will stamp your I-20, take pages one and two, and return pages three and four to you. DO NOT LOSE YOUR PORTION OF THE I-20 CERTIFICATE. It is a very important document. **If you have an F-1 visa from a previous visit to the U.S. and it has not expired, you may travel directly to the United States with a new HCC I-20 Certificate without visiting a United States embassy or consulate.

3. Can I use another visa to enter the U.S.?

If you have another visa from a previous visit, do not use it to enter the United States.

You must wait for your I-20 Certificate and apply for an F-1 visa. Do not get impatient and apply for a B-2 visitor (pleasure) visa to enter the United States. The U.S. government can request information from the school concerning when you applied for admission and when you were accepted. To enter the U.S. with a B-1 or B-2 visa when you intend to be a student is fraudulent. If you are found to have committed fraud, you can be denied permission to enter the U.S. for the rest of your life.

DO NOT ENTER THE U.S. UNDER THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM, WHICH PERMITS ONLY A 90-DAY VISIT AND FOR WHICH AN EXTENSION IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

How to obtain the I-20 form?

To receive the I-20 Certificate, you must complete the attached forms accurately and return them to the International Student Office with the required documents supporting the financial ability of yourself and /or your sponsors.

**Acceptable documents must be submitted two weeks in advance of issuance of an I-20 form.

DEADLINES: CALL FOR INFORMATION

 Overseas applicants –
 (718) 518-4405

 Transfer Students –
 (718) 518-4405

**Unacceptable documents will be rejected and returned. Documents must be completed exactly as Indicated below. Please read these instructions carefully. Almost half of documents received are unsatisfactory because prospective students or sponsors ignore indicated instructions.

Why you need to prove financial ability?

- ✓ There are rigorous U.S. government regulations set to decide who may receive the I-20 form. Consequently, HCC's International Student Office must be strict about financial documentation.
- ✓ U.S. embassies and consulates are very demanding and we want to ensure that prospective students are not denied visas because financial standards are not fully met.
- International Student Office strongly encourages families to think carefully about the real costs of studying and living in New York and make sure that students' needs are provided for. An unrealistic budget could result in pain and suffering for prospective students.

What rules should students and sponsors follow before an I-20 form is issued?

- 1. Submit proof of sponsor's income.
 - Do not expect bank statements to prove the financial ability of the sponsor.
 - Bank statements are very poor evidence of financial ability unless the amount of money is very, very large.
 - Proof of sponsor's income should be on the employer's letterhead, on income tax receipts and forms or estimated by a bank when the sponsor is a self-employed businessperson.
 - A company's income will not be accepted as proof of a sponsor's income. HCC must have an official statement of the actual salary paid to the owner/sponsor.

2. Documents from banks or anyone else, which state that a sponsor has "enough" or "sufficient" funds to support a student will not be accepted.

- Only the College can decide how much is enough and this is based on federal guidelines.
- Financial papers must state actual dollar amounts in *U.S. currency*. However, HCC will accept documents which indicate that the income or savings are "in the high five figures (or low six figures, etc.) in U.S. dollars".

3. Do not send papers separately.

- All financial papers must be submitted together.
- Partial documentation will be considered incomplete and will be returned.
- Papers should be submitted by a designated family member.

4. Each sponsor must submit an affidavit stating exactly what is to be provided.

- All questions on affidavit forms must be answered.
- The sponsor in the presence of a notary public must sign all affidavits.
- The notary public must sign and the official seal of the notary public must be on the affidavit.
- Affidavits, which have been changed in any way, must have the signature of both the sponsor and the notary public on each change. It is a crime to change a sworn statement.

There are notaries at all U.S. embassies and consulates. In the U.S. many local pharmacists, lawyers and accountants are notaries. There are notaries in all countries though names for them may be different. They are officials licensed by the national or regional government to take sworn statements for courts of law or to witness contracts or property deeds.

5. Sponsors should not promise too much money.

- Many sponsors seem to believe that, the more money they promise to give to the student, the more likely we are to issue the I-20 Certificate. However, *the opposite is true*.
- The second most common reason why HCC must reject financial documents is that the sponsor promises to provide more support than his/her income permits.
- Sponsors should promise what they truly intend to give.

6. Do not submit old documents.

- Both the College and the U.S. Government agencies require new documents (less than six months old).
- Older documents will be rejected and returned.

7. Do not send copies.

- Except for tax documents, leases and deeds, all papers must be originals.
- Copies are rejected and returned. Originals will be attached to I-20's issued for visa applications and returned to students who are outside the U.S.
- HCC will not accept documents sent by FAX.

8. It is not important how many sponsors there are, whether or not they are U.S. citizens or where they live.

• It is usually easier to get an F-1 visa when at least part of a student's support comes from outside the U.S.

9. Students can sponsor themselves, either partly or in full.

- No affidavits are needed.
- Last 3 bank statements in the student's name must be provided and the amount of money in the bank account must be divided by two because HCC has two-year programs.

10. Scholarships may be used to qualify for the Form I-20.

• We must have an award letter from the private or government scholarship board stating how much money is to be given and for how many years.

11. Free Room and Board can be used to support a student.

- When a family member in New York provides free room and board, the student needs far less in cash from other sponsors.
- Affidavits of free room and board must be sent with a copy of the property deed or rental lease.
- Such affidavits will not be accepted if the place to live is too small or too far away from the college.

12. Every dollar of support must be proven by student's bank statements, proof of the sponsor's income, or a lease or deed.

• Each dollar not provided by the student personally must be guaranteed in an affidavit by a sponsor.

13. All supporting financial documents must be in English.

• In order to make sure that we approve your financial documents as quickly as possible, we request that you officially translate the documents and that U.S. currency is used.

SPONSOR SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

A sponsor must show sufficient income and/or financial resources to assure that the student being sponsored will not become a public charge (receive Federal or State low income benefits or services) while in the United States. Evidence should consist of copies of any or all of the following documentation listed below that are applicable to the sponsor's situation. Failure to provide evidence of sufficient income and/or financial resources may result in the denial of the student's application for a visa or his or her removal from the United States. It is advisable that all funding supporting documents be notarized.

The sponsor must submit evidence of income and resources, as appropriate:

A. Written statement from an officer of the bank or other financial institution or brokerage where the sponsor has accounts, giving the following details regarding the account:

- 1. Date account opened
- 2. Total amount deposited for the past year
- 3. Last 3 bank statements
- 4. Present balance

B. Statement of your employer on business stationery showing:

- 1. Date and nature of employment
- 2. Salary paid
- 3. Whether the position is temporary or permanent
- C. If self-employed:
- 1. Copy of last income tax return filed or
- 2. Report of commercial rating concern
- 3. Schedule of assets with supporting documents

Estimate of 2014 – 2015 Expenses for International Students Attending the City University of New York

Tuition and Fees per academic year (12 months)	Two year colleges	\$ 7,556.00
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Student Living Expenses – amounts based on calculations provided by CUNY Office of Student Financial Aid

Books and Supplies		\$1,248.00
Transportation		\$1,133.00
Personal Expenses		\$4,995.00
Housing		\$9,900.00
Meals (at home)		\$2,583.00
Lunch		\$1,360.00
Total Student Living Expenses		\$21,219.00
Total First Year Expenses	2 year college students	\$26,615.00 - \$28,775.00

Tuition and Fees stated is based on the students taking at least 12 credits per semester. This is the minimum number of credits required to be a full-time student (necessary to maintain lawful immigration status). If you take more than 12 credits, you will be charged at the rate of \$300 per credit (two year colleges) or \$415 per credit (four year colleges).

Students planning to bring a husband, wife, or child/children in an F-2 status must show an additional \$5,000 per year to support the spouse, and \$3,000 per year for each child.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The issuance of an I-20 Form does not guarantee the approval of the F-1 student) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service or the approval of the F-1 student visa by the U.S. Embassy or consulate office in your home country.
- Unacceptable financial documents will be rejected and returned to you. Documents must be completed exactly as indicated. Please read instructions carefully. Almost half of received documents are unsatisfactory because students or sponsors do not follow the indicated instructions.

SEVIS Fee Payment: Instruction Sheet

New SEVIS I-901 fees went into effect on October 27th, 2008. **The fee is \$200**, to be collected from F visa applicants. The fee will be used by the Department of Homeland Security to pay costs associated with the operation of the federal SEVIS program, including the administration and maintenance of SEVIS, compliance activities, and the hiring of federal liaison officers. Prior to appearing for a visa interview (or for Canadian citizens who are visa exempt, prior to entering the United States), all individuals seeking an *initial* F-1 visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate who have in their possession a SEVIS form I-20 with an issuance date of September 1, 2004 or later will need to pay the SEVIS fee.

Students applying for admission to Hostos for the Spring 2005 semester or later will have to pay the SEVIS fee before they can apply for a visa. Those who are visa exempt (e.g. Canadian citizens) will have to pay the SEVIS fee before they can enter the United States.

Who has to pay the fee?

New students who need to apply for an F-1 visa in order to enter the United States, and who have been issued a form I-20 for initial attendance dated on or after September 1, 2004, must pay the SEVIS fee before going to the US embassy or consulate for their visa interview. If that individual's visa application is denied, a new SEVIS fee payment will not be required if a subsequent visa application is filed for the same type of program within 12 months of the initial denial.

New students who are citizens of Canada wishing to apply for F-1 status at a U.S. port of entry with a form I-20 for initial attendance dated on or after September 1, 2004 must pay the SEVIS fee prior to entering the United States

Method of payment:

The federal SEVIS fee will be able to be paid electronically on the internet by credit card (Visa, MasterCard or American Express), or by mail with an international money order in U.S. currency, or foreign draft drawn on a financial institution in the United States and payable in U.S. currency, or by check or money order from a U.S. bank. A special web site has been established for internet fee collection. The website is www.FMJfee.com Fee payment can also be accepted from any third party, either in the United States or abroad. In other words, a friend or relative can pay the fee on behalf of a student. The Department of Homeland Security will issue an official paper receipt acknowledging every payment regardless of payment method. Express delivery of the receipt can be requested at additional cost. Anyone who pays the fee electronically will be able to print out an electronic receipt immediately at the time of payment for use in advance of the delivery of the paper receipt. To print a copy of the SEVIS fee application and read about other payment options you can go to the SEVIS website at www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/

For Information on How to apply for an F-1 visa in your county: Either telephone them or visit their website at <u>www.usembassy.state.gov</u>



Application for the Immigration Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20)

International students who are admitted into a degree program at CUNY will need to obtain an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20), in order to enter and/or remain in the U.S. as an F-1 student. This requirement applies whether you are a new student, a transfer student from another U.S. university, or a student transferring between CUNY colleges.

(Please print clearly)

1. Name (Family name as in passport) (Given name as	s in passport) (Se	econd given, or middle na	Sex Sex	(check one)	_MaleFemale
	, .	-	, . ,, ,		
2. Present Mailing Address(Nur	nber and Street)		(City, State)	(Country)	(Postal Code)
	Fax Number		Email_		
4. Date of Birth(Month/Day/Ye	ear)	Place of Birth		(City and Cou	ntry)
5. Country(ies) of Citizenship			Country of Resid	ence	
6. Permanent Overseas Address (Required by U.S. Government Regulations)	(Number a	and Street)	(City, State)	(Country)	(Postal Code)
7. Address in U.S.A. (if known)	nber and Street)	(City	r, State)	(Country)	(Postal Code)
8. Expected Semester of Enrollment			Spring 20		immer 20
9. Degree Program: Associate's		Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral	
10. Academic Major					
11. Are you currently studying at a L	J.S. institution	or college? Yes		No	
12. Do you currently hold F-1 status	? Yes		No		
TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICA	NTS ALREA	DY IN THE U.S.			
If you are currently in the U.S., pleas number, expiration date of passport, accompanying family members.					
13. F-1 Student Status	I-94 Adm	nission #	(Attach copies of a	ALL your previous	sly issued Forms I-20)
14. University that issued most recent Form I-20			_SEVIS # N		
15. Current U.S. school: Name:					
Address:	(Number a	nd Street)	(City)	(State)	((Zip Code)
16. Other Immigration Status (If A		,		· · ·	
17. I-94 Admission No					
				(Mo	nth/Day/Year)

Declaration & Certification of Finances

Please indicate the source and amount of your financial support for the first four years of study for Bachelor's degree candidates and two years for Associate's degree candidates. The CUNY college that has admitted you requires documentation of guaranteed support for the first year and projected support for future years. Note that costs may rise 7-10% annually. Total amounts must meet or exceed the estimate of expenses (see "Sponsor Supporting Evidence" page).

U.S. immigration authorities require colleges to receive satisfactory financial certifications from prospective students before issuing a Form I-20. Therefore, you must attach original documents for each source of financial support you indicate. Please refer to the "Sponsor Supporting Evidence" page for a list of acceptable supporting documents. Be sure to have an additional set of original documents for your appointment at the U.S. Consulate (or Embassy) overseas.

Complete and send in this page with your application. Provide as much detail as possible.

	Guaranteed	Projected	Projected	Projected
	Support 1 _{st} Year	Support 2nd Year	Support 3rd Year	Support 4th year
A. Student			Sid roai	- in your
Name				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Name of Bank_			Location(City)	(Country)
The student must provid	de the following documen	ts in English:	(Oity)	(Country)
1) Bank officer's summa 2) Stock brokerage acc	ary statement of account ount statements, if any.	history.		
B. Parents, and/or oth	er individual sponsors			
Name				
Relationship to student				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Name				
Relationship to student_				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Name				
Relationship to student			<u>_</u>	
	\$	\$	\$	\$

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT (Amount in U.S. Dollars)

Declaration & Certification of Finances

Source	\$	\$	\$	\$
Source	\$\$	\$	\$	\$
Source(Attach current signed of	\$	sorship, including amo	\$ unt of support in U.S. Dollars	\$ and period covered.)
Grand Totals	\$	\$	\$ estimate of expenses for one	\$
By signing my name to this studies at a two year or fou				my arrangements for financing my
(Student's signature)				(Date)
(Please print name)				
	AF	FIRMATION OF	R OATH	
I hereby affirm that I	understand the con	tents of this af	fidavit and that th	e statements are accurate
Signature of sponso	·			
Sworn and subscribe	ed before me this	day	/ of	, in the year
Signature of Office o	f administering Oat	h		OFFICIAL SEAL HERI

AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT

This form is for individuals using their own income and/or savings to support a student. It must be completed by the person who will provide the student with full or partial financial support and/or room and board during the student's course of study at The City University of New York. Sponsors providing financial support must complete items 1-6; sponsors providing room and/or board must complete Items 1 and 7.

SPONSOR INFORMATION

1) I ,	, citizen of ,				
	(Name of sponsor)				(Country/ies)
and residing at	(Stroot)	(City/State)	(Country)	(Postal Code)	(Telephone),
	(Sileel)	(City/State)	(Country)	(Postal Code)	(Telephone)
certify the following:					
2) I am employed with		(Nam	e of employer)		
			o or omproyory		
ocated at(Street)		(City/State)	(Cou	ntry) (Postal C	Code) (Telephone)
					, , ,
	at employer, or verific	cation of annual ir	ncome for self-er	mployed or retired ir	ent salary confirmation ndividuals. The employer slation.
3) I have \$	(U.S.) on de	posit with			
Name of Bank:					
Address of Bank:					
	(Number and Street)		(City) (State)		(Postal Code)
Attach bank officer's	statement of accou	nt history.			
ta) I currently support	persor	ns (including myse	elf). Our total anr	nual income is \$	(U.S.).
Our total family expens	ses are \$	(U.S.).			
4b) I sponsor	(number) individu	als for immigratio	on in addition to t	his affidavit.	
STUDENT SUPPORT	INFORMATION				
5) This affidavit is exec	uted on behalf			of who was bo	rn on (Month/ Day /Year)
S/he is my(Relation	nship to Sponsor)	(Name of Stude	ent)		(Month/ Day /Year)
6) I hereby certify that	I am willing, able, and	d do commit to pro	ovide	a of Student)	with the annual amount
					e program of study at The Cit
University of New York	until		(give a date wh	en the sponsorship	is expected to terminate).

AFFIDAVIT OF SPONSOR PROVIDING FREE ROOM AND BOARD (cash value to the student of \$9,900)

ROOM AND BOARD SUPPORT INFORMATION (To be completed if student will live in the sponsor's home in the U.S.).

I hereby certify that I will provide with _____

_____(check one):

(Name of Student)

_____ Room only in my home at the address indicated above (valued at \$7,081) or

_____ Full room and board in my home as indicated above (valued at \$9,250) during each year that s/he follows a program of study at CUNY.

Note that this value cannot be included in any amount of support being provided in #6, above. Attach a copy of your lease or deed or copy of a statement from your landlord.

By signing my name to this affidavit, I certify that the information above is a correct statement of my agreement to sponsor the student herein named.

Signature This affidavit must be signed.

	Date
(Please print name)	

Signature of Sponsor_____Date _____

AFFIRMATION OR OATH

I hereby affirm that I understand the contents of this affidavit and that the statements are accurate.

Signature of sponsor		
Sworn and subscribed before me this	day of	, in the year
Signature of Office of administering Oath		OFFICIAL SEAL HERE

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES AT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE 500 Grand Concourse ROOM B-102 BRONX, NY 10451

Phone # (718)-518-4405 Fax # (718) 319-7919

www.hostos.cuny.edu

IMPORTANT: AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES THE STUDENT HAS 15 DAYS TO SUBMIT THE I-20 PACKAGE IN ORDER FOR HIM/HER TO OBTAIN A HOSTOS I-20 CERTIFICATE