

## NEW STUDENT INFORMATION

### Visa Information

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#### Applying for F1 Visa

Contact the US Embassy or Consulate General of your choice at <http://usembassy.state.gov/> to arrange an interview. Appointments should take place no earlier than 90 days prior to the beginning of the semester as indicated on the I-20 form. At the appointment you will need to provide:

- o I-20 form, issued by Fullerton College, bearing your SEVIS record number.
- o Application Forms DS-156 and DS-158. Some males will be required to complete and submit Form DS-157.
- o A passport valid for at least six months after your proposed date of entry into the United States.
- o One (1) 2x2 inch photograph.
- o A receipt of your visa processing fee.
- o Financial evidence showing your/your parents/your sponsor's sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during your studies. This can include income tax documents, original bank books and/or statements.
- o Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended (*suggested for new visas, required for visa renewals*).
- o Scores from standardized tests required by the college, such as the TOEFL (*suggested, but not required*).

If you are approved of the F1 visa, you may enter the US no more than 30 days in advance of the start/report date on your I-20. For example, if the report date is January 15, you may not enter the US any earlier than December 16.

#### SEVIS Fee

Effective September 1, 2004, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires the collection of a one-time fee of \$100 that covers the operational costs of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). This fee must be paid *before* you arrive at the consulate for your visa interview. Pay online at: [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com)

#### Online Resources

Useful information on applying for student visas:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors\\_types\\_students2.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_types_students2.html)

Step by step information for student visas:

<http://educationusa.state.gov/undergrad/visas/guide.htm>

When applying for your visa, keep the following suggestions in mind:

<http://www.nafsa.org/content/ProfessionalandEducationalResources/ImmigrationAdvisingResources/10points.htm>

Canadian Citizens please see:

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/leavingarrivinginUS/arrival\\_departure/documentary\\_requirements.xml](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/leavingarrivinginUS/arrival_departure/documentary_requirements.xml)

#### Change of Non-immigrant Status

If you are currently in the US with other nonimmigrant visa status, you must change your status to F1 by either:

- A. Leaving the country to apply for the F1 visa at an US Embassy or Consulate General or
- B. Staying in the US and submitting a Change of Nonimmigrant Status application to US Citizenship and Immigration Services *before* your I-94 expires. Please make an appointment with the ISC Director to discuss a change of status.

### Transfer Students

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In order for Fullerton College to issue your I-20, your previous school must release your SEVIS record. Please submit a copy of your admissions letter to your school and request that they release your SEVIS record to Fullerton College. Your record should be released within 60 days of your last term completed or I-20 expiration date.

### Housing Information

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Fullerton College does not provide short or long term living accommodations on or off campus. However, the College can provide information for homestay accommodation with American families in the area, as well as apartment rental information and some roommate sources.

**Homestay:** [Homestay Services International](http://www.homestayservices.com/) provides Fullerton College international students with the opportunity to live with an American family and can also pick you up at the airport for a small additional fee.

Web: <http://www.homestayservices.com/>. Email: [homestay@homestayservices.com](mailto:homestay@homestayservices.com).

**Dorms:** Although Fullerton College does not have on-campus housing, FC students interested in living in a student dormitory may contact California State Fullerton University Village at <http://www.csufuniversityvillage.com/>

**Roommates:** If you are looking for roommates or would like roommates to find you, you can fill out a "prospective roommate profile" and e-mail it to the International Student Center. We'll keep your profile on file and notify you when roommates matching your preferences submit a similar profile. <http://isc.fullcoll.edu/resources.htm>. Or you can use a search engine like [www.roommates.com](http://www.roommates.com) to find roommates in the Fullerton area.

**Short-term Accommodations:** When you first arrive in Fullerton, it may take you a few days to a week to find a roommate or apartment. Homestay can be coordinated before you arrive. The following are affordable short-term options:

- **International Students Incorporated** can provide students with airport pick-up and help them find short-term housing. Web: <http://www.internationalstudents.org/>. Orange County email: [sueapgar@cox.net](mailto:sueapgar@cox.net).
- **Anaheim Park Hotel** offers a discount rate of \$59/night to Fullerton College international students and is located less than 2 miles from campus. Web: [www.anaheimparkhotel.com](http://www.anaheimparkhotel.com). Email: [info@anaheimparkhotel.com](mailto:info@anaheimparkhotel.com).
- **Hostelling International in Fullerton** is located walking distance to campus and is open June 1 to September 1. Web: <http://westernhostels.org/losangeles/fullerton.htm>. Email: [hifull@aol.com](mailto:hifull@aol.com).

## Transportation

The Southern California and Orange County areas are serviced by a variety of public transportation, including buses, commuter trains, and light rail. In comparison to other countries, America's public transportation systems can feel limited. The Fullerton Transportation Center is located within walking distance from the college which can greatly increase students' mobility.

**Buses:** Bus transportation is provided by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). Fullerton College students can buy a discounted bus pass each semester from the Fullerton College Bursars Office. Web: [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net).

**Metrolink** commuter trains connect Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties with six train lines and an extensive weekday schedule. The Orange County Line that stops in Fullerton extends from Oceanside to Los Angeles. Web: [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

**Amtrak** provides nationwide train service and has several stations and destinations in California. From Fullerton, the Pacific Surfliner runs south to San Diego and north to San Luis Obispo. Web: [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

**Air Travel:** There are several airports that serve the Southern California area. Below are links to the nearby airports and their distance from Fullerton College.

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)	<a href="http://www.lawa.org/lax">www.lawa.org/lax</a>	33 miles
Orange County "John Wayne" Airport (SNA)	<a href="http://www.ocair.com">www.ocair.com</a>	18 miles
Long Beach Airport (LGB)	<a href="http://www.longbeach.gov/airport">www.longbeach.gov/airport</a>	20 miles
Ontario International Airport (ONT)	<a href="http://www.lawa.org/ont">www.lawa.org/ont</a>	30 miles
Burbank Airport (BUR)	<a href="http://www.burbankairport.com">www.burbankairport.com</a>	40 miles

## Health Requirements

**Health Insurance:** Sickness and accident care in the United States is extremely expensive. To protect against the expense of accidental injury or unforeseen major illness, all international students are required to buy and maintain insurance coverage for health, medical evacuation, and repatriation during their period of enrollment in Fullerton College. Students must purchase health insurance coverage *before* they will be allowed to register for classes. The insurance policy mandated by the North Orange County Community College District is *Somerton Student Insurance*. This policy provides for your basic health and accident care, vision care, prescriptions, and vaccinations as well as Global Emergency Medical Assistance exclusively for international students. For more information and to purchase health insurance, go to: <http://isc.fullcoll.edu/insurance.htm>

**Tuberculosis Test:** All international students who are admitted and enroll at Fullerton College are *required* to submit the result of a tuberculin skin test taken in the United States. Results are valid only if taken within the last 4 years within the US. Testing will be available at the Fullerton College Health Center at the beginning of the semester.

**Get more International Student Center information:** <http://isc.fullcoll.edu>