



## International Student Acceptance Information 2020-2021

***Congratulations on your acceptance to CIIS!*** We are looking forward to having you join us! This International Student Acceptance packet includes information for the next steps in getting out to CIIS and the Bay Area. It includes information on obtaining an F-1 student visa, financing your stay in the U.S., international student services, and housing.

CIIS assists degree-seeking students in eligible programs with the application for F-1 student visas only. You will need to obtain a **SEVIS Form I-20** from the university before you apply for the visa. In order to obtain a SEVIS Form I-20, you need to do the following (details below):

1. Be fully/conditionally admitted to an eligible CIIS degree program
2. Submit by one email the
  - a. Certificate of Funding form
  - b. Support financial documentation showing one year of tuition and living expenses per the estimate outlined below
  - c. Copies of your valid passport
  - d. \*For transfer students from another U.S. institution, please also include the Transfer Eligibility form and copies of your current visa and SEVIS I-20.\*
3. Pay your enrollment deposit per your acceptance letter

I will be in touch with you throughout the summer with information on the Summer Bridge Program, housing options, the required New International Student Orientation and more. If you have any questions along the way feel free to contact me at [jconnor@ciis.edu](mailto:jconnor@ciis.edu). Please check the [MyCIIS International Students pages](#) for all required forms for incoming international students.

I look forward to meeting you in person soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "jconnor".

Jody L. O'Connor  
Associate Director, Student Affairs  
International Student Recruitment and Services

### CIIS Programs and F-1 Student Visa Eligibility

Per immigration regulations, online degree programs do not meet eligibility requirements for the I-20/ F-1 student visa. Online students should enter the U.S. on a tourist visa or tourist waiver for the once per semester required weeklong intensive/retreat. This includes Bachelor of Science, Expressive Arts Therapy—hybrid, Integrative Health Studies, Integral Transpersonal Psychology, Master's in Fine Arts, Philosophy, Cosmology & Consciousness—online, Transformative Studies & Leadership programs and Women's Spirituality programs (the MA level can be arranged as online or in-person. Please contact the International Student Advisor with any questions.

Students in weekend or low-residency/semi-distance programs should obtain the F-1 student visa whether or not they intend to live in the U.S. This includes Bachelor of Arts, Human Sexuality and ICP—weekend.



## Obtaining the CIIS SEVIS I-20 Form

Below are the determined estimated cost requirement for obtaining the SEVIS I-20. Actual costs will vary for each individual and by program, but it is good to work within this estimated budget for your planning. Please keep in mind that there are additional educational costs for *all students in the School of Professional Psychology to complete at least 45 hours of personal psychotherapy* while enrolled in the program. These hours are required for graduation and the costs are not factored into the estimates below.

The following is a breakdown of estimated expenses for the **2020-2021** academic year and the amount required for the visa application process:

	BA	MA	Ph.D.	Psy.D.	MSTCM	DACM	DAOM
	Fall-Spring	Fall-Spring	Fall-Spring	Fall-Spring	Fall-Spring	Fall-Spring	Fall-Spring
Tuition	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>\$15,450</b>	<b>\$16,500</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
Fees	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$480</b>
Room and Board	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
Books/Supplies , Transportation, Personal/Healthcare	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200
<b>Total Per Year</b>	<b>\$53,680</b>	<b>\$54,680</b>	<b>\$57,680</b>	<b>\$64,680</b>	<b>\$48,130</b>	<b>\$49,180</b>	<b>\$42,680</b>

Estimated tuition costs are based on full-time enrollment. Estimated room and board expenses are based on a statewide average from the California Student Aid Commission. Expenses may vary based on your standard of living and where you live in the Bay Area. Additional proof of funding required for each dependent that the CIIS student will bring to the U.S.

**Room and Board:** Depending on the neighborhood, you will find rents starting at approximately \$1,800 per month for a studio and \$2,500 per month for a one-bedroom apartment. You may also want to consider shared housing. Please review the Housing Guide at <http://www.ciis.edu/student-resources/housing-guide>.

**Expenses for Married Students:** Students who plan to bring members of their families to the U.S. must plan carefully for their family's support. **This amount is estimated to be \$8,000 per dependent in addition to the Total per Year amount.** An F-2 spouse may not work or participate in a degree program. An F-2 child may attend school.

**Miscellaneous Expenses:** Miscellaneous expenses include daily necessities such as clothing, laundry, recreation, and entertainment. Not included are additional costs such as buying a car or additional appliances. Personal expenses will vary according to each student's habits and preferences.

## Visa Application & Timing Your Arrival

As soon as possible upon your acceptance to CIIS, you will:

- **Provide the CIIS Certificate of Funding Form**, support financial documents and a copy of your passport. Scanned email documents are preferred. Please keep a copy for yourself for the visa appointment and entry to the U.S.
- **Receive the CIIS SEVIS I-20 form from CIIS** via DHL Express Mail to the mailing address on your Certificate of Funding Form (no PO Boxes allowed).
- **Pay the SEVIS Fee online** (paid to the U.S. government *at least* 3-5 days prior to a visa appointment or entrance to the U.S.)
- **Make and attend a visa appointment** at the U.S. Consulate in your home country. Citizens of Canada may obtain their F-1 status stamp at the port of entry. Visa [appointments and wait times](#) vary by country.
- You may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start of the Program Start date listed on your SEVIS I-20. *Students starting in the fall semester should plan their arrival to the U.S. for the Summer Bridge Program in early August.* Please check dates online.



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## Financing Your Education

For many international students finding the resources to fund an education in the United States is a concern. CIIS is committed to assisting international students, but often students must find additional sources of support. International students are not eligible for United States Federal Financial Student Aid (FAFSA).

### Scholarships and Grants

International students may apply for the CIIS Opportunity Scholarship, Diversity Scholarship and various Awarded Scholarships that are primarily based on financial need. If you have not applied already, please inquire with the Admissions Counselor and review deadline information on the main CIIS website.

Many CIIS international students depend on external sources of funding through grants and scholarships from various organizations. Please find the document on MyCIIS at

[https://my.ciis.edu/ICS/Student\\_Life/International\\_Students.jnz?portlet=New\\_International\\_Students](https://my.ciis.edu/ICS/Student_Life/International_Students.jnz?portlet=New_International_Students)

### Employment in the United States

F-1 visa holders are permitted to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and up to 40 hours per week during break periods and summer semester (depending on availability). You may commence campus employment from the first day of the semester for which you begin. The maximum a student can earn through campus employment at CIIS is \$8,000/year. The availability of student employment on campus is limited and is not guaranteed; however, many international students find work on campus within their first year at CIIS.

Off-campus employment authorization is rare at CIIS during the course of study. Students who successfully complete their program are eligible to apply for employment authorization in their field for up to 12 months upon graduating.

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## Summer Bridge Program and Your I-20 Form

The Summer Bridge program takes place at the beginning of August every year and is part of the New International Student Orientation. It is an opportunity to engage academically and expand your community before the start of the busy fall semester. CIIS requires all incoming international students to participate regardless of their country of origin or their proficiency in English. Because CIIS requires your attendance, your SEVIS I-20 form will reflect an early-August start date for admitted students for the fall semester. In the event that there are strong reasons that you will not be able to attend, your I-20 may show the official fall semester start date of late August. Students beginning their programs in the spring semester are asked to attend in the subsequent fall semester.

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## Maintaining Your Visa Status in the U.S.

**Each student is responsible for learning, understanding and complying with the U.S. laws and regulations that apply to the F-1 student visa status.** Failure to be aware of and to comply with important USCIS regulations could jeopardize both your legal status in the U.S. and your future academic plans. Please review information through the following sites:

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security ([www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov))
- U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov))
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ([www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)). Information on maintaining your visa status while at CIIS is on the MyCIIS International Students pages.

You will receive detailed visa regulation information at the New International Student Orientation and in the International Student Handbook.



## International Student Services

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CIIS is committed to providing quality services for international students in academic and non-academic areas throughout your course of study. The following services are provided to international students:

- Bridge Program—a year-long program of support designed to assist first-year students in building academic confidence and cultivating a sense of belonging as they enter into CIIS' unique educational culture. It includes Summer Intensive, a peer mentor program and on-going events.
- Editing services—offered to all international students and non-native English speakers.
- Immigration advising and workshops
- New International Student Orientation—the International Student Advisor will review F-1 student visa rights and responsibilities, the CIIS student health plan and general information. Dependents are invited to join.
- One-on-one advising
- Summer Intensive—This academic writing intensive is held at the beginning of each August for two weeks and considered as part of the New International Student Orientation. Fall semester students should plan their arrival for August 1. New students who begin in the spring semester will attend the following August.
- Tax Filing Workshops

Services for all students offered through various departments include:

- Career Development Services— coaching and workshops for students and alumni around professional goals and applying for employment.
- Center for Writing and Scholarship— one-on-one tutoring, editing, workshop, courses
- Disability Services— assistance with accommodations made to one's academic study based on a documented disability.
- Laurence S. Rockefeller Library— workshops, private study rooms
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion— Summer Bridge program partner, workshops, lectures, educational events and more!
- Student Union—student-run government organization, campus groups, conference funding, social events and more!
- Wellness Center— one-on-one counselling, health and wellness coaching, rotating stress-reduction offerings from yoga, Pilates, workshops and more.

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## Health Insurance and Housing

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It is CIIS policy that all international students maintain health insurance coverage throughout the duration of their program. All students are required to show proof of health insurance coverage to the International Student Advisor throughout their course. Plans can be from one's home country or through U.S. providers.

CIIS does not offer housing placements, but has a variety of resources to assist students. Information is on the [CIIS website](#) and the International Student Advisor will provide guidance upon your admission to the university.