International Graduate Students @ UNLV

**Who is considered an international student?**

Students who are not documented residents in the United States.

**What is the admission process for international students?**

See the “Application to Arrival” flowchart (see page 3, below).

1. Graduate College Requirements (for admission to UNLV)
   
   https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/international/faq
   http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/helpful-info
   
   • Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.
   • Test of Fluency in the English Language (TOFEL) (or other language proficiency test).
   • Home institution credentials (e.g., Transcripts with English translations).
   • Validation of home institutions credentials (to ensure equivalencies with U.S. requirements (e.g., grades, credits, degrees, institutions)).
   • Transcripts with proper translations.
   • $95 application fee.

2. Departmental Requirements (for admission to a specific department)

   These may vary from department to department and/or program to program (check departmental/program websites for more specific information on these requirements), but generally include:

   • Professional portfolio
   • Writing sample
   • Personal statement
   • Letters of recommendation

3. Graduate Assistantship Application (teaching or research)
   
   http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/ga
   
   • Typically for students without home country funding support.
   • Application deadlines vary by department, but generally follow admissions deadlines.
   • Applications generally take 3-5 days to process.
   • Visual, web-based interview required.
**Other requirements?**

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/
http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/

1. I-20 (certificate of eligibility)

- Issued by SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) $200.
- Students should plan to have the I-20 6 weeks prior to the start of their first semester.

  **Requirements:**

  *With external funding:* Proof of one year of funding (sponsorship organization and/or graduate assistantship award letter); funding proof is not required after the first year unless the student’s academic status becomes inactive for 5 months or more.

  *Without external funding (self-funded):* Proof $40,322 for 9 units (letter from bank) Confidential Financial Certification (CFC) form (see page 5, below).

2. Visa

- Receive I-20 (via express mail (students should factor in mailing time and budget costs)).
- Apply for Visa $160.
- Make Visa interview appointment (students should plan for several days to several weeks to complete the appointment process).
  - In-person, required.
  - Must demonstrate that students have strong ties to their home country, thus that they are not seeking permanent residency or to stay in the United States for a longer period of time than their program of study requires.
  - Lasts 5-15 minutes.
  - Sample questions (see page 4, below).

- Visa processing time depends on the country (students should plan for up to 6 months to secure Visa approval).
- Once visa is approved, travel arrangements can be made.

3. Arrival to the United States

- Students must register with SEVIS.
- Students who have been awarded Graduate Assistantships must apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) with the Social Security Administration (SSA).
- Students must check-in with the UNLV Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS).
  
  https://www.unlv.edu/iss

  - Students must attend OISS orientations.

- Students must enroll and pay tuition.
- Students must secure housing.
- Student may arrange for cell phone service, set up bank accounts, etc.
- If necessary, students should continue to build English fluency.

**Note:** If a person comes to the United States as a tourist and then decides to come to become a student, the change of Visa status from tourist to student can take up to 6 months.
The International Student Experience:
Application to Arrival

Student in Home Country ➔ Applies: Graduate College, Department & GArship ➔ Visual Compliance check through Export Control ➔ Admission letter published

Makes Visa Appointment ➔ Receives I-20 & pays SEVIS fee ➔ Issuance of I-20 ➔ Arrives in U.S./on Campus:
- Check-in w/ OISS
- Housing
- Bank Account
- Enrollment
- Social Security Number

Attends Visa Interview ➔ Visa is APPROVED:
- Purchases flight to US
- Housing
- Enrollment

Starts classes, Graduate Assistantship and ties up any loose ends.
Now an International Grad Rebel!
Example Visa Interview Questions

Questions about study plans:

- Why are you going to the US?
- What will you specialize in for your degree?
- What will be your major?
- Who is your current employer? What do you do?
- Why are you planning to continue your education?
- Can you not continue your education in your home country?
- How will this study program relate to your past work or studies?

Questions about academic capability:

- What are your test scores (GRE, GMAT, SAT, TOEFL, IELTS)?
- How will you manage the cultural and educational differences in the US?
- Why do you want to pursue a degree in the US?
- What do you know about US schools?

Questions about financial status:

- What is your monthly income?
- How do you plan to fund the entire duration of your education?
- How much does your school cost?
- How will you meet these expenses?
- How else will you cover the rest of your costs?
- Do you have a copy of your bank statements?
- Did you get offered a scholarship at your school?

Questions about post-graduate plans:

- Do you have relatives or friends currently in the US?
- Do you have a job or career in mind after you graduate
- Do you plan on returning back to your home country?
- What are your plans after graduation?
- Will you continue to work for your current employer after you graduate?
University of Nevada, Las Vegas | 2015-2016 Academic Year
Graduate Degree-Seeking F-1 International Student | Confidential Financial Certification

Read These Instructions: Please print clearly or type all required information on this form. Failure to do so will delay or prevent issuance of your I-20. A bank letter or statement with an official signature or stamp verifying the availability of the required dollar amount must accompany this form. A photocopy of a monthly bank statement is NOT sufficient financial verification. The guarantor of funds must sign this form or it will not be valid.

The confidential financial certification form along with the attached appropriate bank letter MUST be submitted before an I20 will be issued. You can fax them: +1-702-895-4180, e-mail them to: InternationalGrad@unlv.edu (email is preferred) or mail them to: Graduate Admissions | University of Nevada, Las Vegas | 4505 S Maryland Pkwy, Box 4510 | Las Vegas, NV 89154-1017 | U.S.A.

Student Information

*Please print your name as it appears on your passport*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name (Surname):</th>
<th>First Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Name (if applicable):</td>
<td>Date of Birth (month/day/year):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td>Country of Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of Permanent Residence:</td>
<td>Country of Citizenship:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying for (Circle One):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Fall 2015</td>
<td>☐ Spring 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever attended a U.S. school with F-1 visa status?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are a current F-1 student, are you current on OPT?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are currently an F-1 student, Name of the school:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended from (month/date/year):</td>
<td>to (month/day/year):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your SEVIS ID # is (It is the number appearing on the right upper corner above the bar code):</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Mailing Address for sending the I-20 to you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line 1:</th>
<th>Province/State:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line 2:</td>
<td>Country:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>Postal Code:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Foreign Address (Home Country Address):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line 1:</th>
<th>Province:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line 2:</td>
<td>Country:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>Postal Code:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated Expenses

Estimated required expenses of a student for the 2015-2016 academic year include tuition, mandatory student fees, and minimum living expenses for 12 months. There are additional expenses for dependents in the United States. All fees are subject to change without notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduate Student (based on 9 credits)</th>
<th>Graduate Assistants (based on 6 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees:</td>
<td>$23,922</td>
<td>$18,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living expenses:</td>
<td>$16,400</td>
<td>$16,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Assistantship (Average Scholarship Value)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$29,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total required amount from student:</td>
<td><strong>$40,322</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>