FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

How do I know if I am an international student?

- We define an international student as someone either seeking an F-1 student visa, or someone who already has an F-1 student visa. If you hold a different type of visa, or a green card, you are not considered an international student at the College.

What is the application process?

- All new international students print out the application packet and then submit the required documents on the checklist, to the campus they wish to attend.

Once I apply, how long before I hear from Cuyahoga Community College?

- Once you submit your application, you should receive an email from the International Student Services Office within a few days that we received your application. If everything is complete, the application process should take 2 to 4 weeks to make a decision.

What does a completed application consist of?

- New applicants must submit our standard application, our international student application, official transcript (with English translation) showing you have completed high school, copy of your passport (and visa if applicable), and original, official financial documents. If you are transferring from a school within the United States, you must also complete and submit a Transfer Form completed by your current advisor. Please refer to the checklist that applies to you, to ensure you have all the documents for a completed application.

What makes my documents official?

- Official documents must be issued directly from the authorizing institution, such as a bank, school, or testing agency. Official/certified copies are acceptable. This means a photocopy of the original has been made, and then stamped/signed/sealed by an official, such as a notary or magistrate. All official documents must have a stamp, seal or be printed on official letterhead paper from the authorizing institution. Photocopies, scans, and faxes cannot be accepted if they are not copied by an official.

Can I send a scanned application or bank documents by email?

- No. We ask that you send the application materials by mail to the campus you wish to attend.

How can I check the status of my application?

- If you have questions about your application, please email the International Student Services Coordinator at the campus you applied to.
What financial documents must I submit?

- The financial documents required for the application process include the financial support documentation which must be completed by you and all sponsors financially supporting you, as well as proof of available funds verified from the bank.

You must submit either a recent OFFICIAL bank statement or letter on bank letterhead (translated into English) for each person listed as a sponsor. A total of $26,710 must be available in a checking, savings, or other “liquid” account. The bank statement must be less than six months old. Bank statements are accepted in all currencies but must be written or translated into English.

Do I need to take the TOEFL, IELTS or SAT test?

- We require only one of these tests be presented — students are given the choice which they wish to present. Starting the summer 2015 semester, Cuyahoga Community College is requiring all entering students to provide evidence of English proficiency as part of our admission criteria. We were required to do this to meet Federal Regulations since we are not a language institute, but a degree granting institution. Going forward, full time ESL studies is an option for F-1 students to start with – but we must show a language proficiency test results are on file.

Students who have met a certain level of English proficiency, you may be admitted to the College for “Academic Studies” to study on an I-20 for your declared major. Students studying with an I-20 in “Academic Studies” may be approved for up to 30 months.

- TOEFL (iBT, internet test): 79 (no sub-score can be less than 18)* or above
- TOEFL (computer based test): 213* or above
- TOEFL (paper test): 550* or above
- IELTS (academic test): 6.0* or above
- ACT: 18 or above (in Reading)*
- SAT: 430 or above (in Reading)*
- Cuyahoga Community College AccuPlacer Test (If currently in U.S) - Placement into ENG 1010
- Transfer credit in College-level English with a grade of "C" or better from an accredited U.S. college or U.S. University*

The TOEFL /IELTS scores are only valid for two years.

*Successful completion of less than 15 credit hours of college-level coursework from an accredited college in the United States, including the equivalent of Tri-C’s ENG 1010 and 1020, may require COMPASS, TOEFL or IELTS testing.
What is the minimum score that I need on the TOEFL, IELTS or SAT test?

- There is no minimum score - you will receive additional testing for placement upon arrival to appropriately place you in classes.

May I transfer college credit to Cuyahoga Community College?

- If you have credit from institutions within the United States, you must submit an official transcript, as well as a Transcript Evaluation Form, which should then be submitted to:

  Cuyahoga Community College
  Office of the Registrar
  PO Box 5966
  Cleveland OH  44101

  Students who have completed college level work outside the United States must have their transcript evaluated by the transcript evaluation agency listed below. A request must be made for a Catalog Match Report for courses to be eligible for review by Tri-C. The cost of the evaluation is the responsibility of the student. The evaluation should be sent directly to the Office of the Registrar at Cuyahoga Community College.

  Educational Perspectives  www.edperspective.org

How can I check the status of my application?

- If you have questions about your application, please email the International Student Services Coordinator at the campus you applied.

Do I have to declare a major or a program of study?

- You must select a major on your application; however, it is possible to change your selection at a later time.

Can I just study English as a Second Language?

- We are not a language school. Students must apply to the school and will then be placed into ESL courses (if necessary) based on their scores.

What is the cost to study at Cuyahoga Community College?

- The estimated cost for tuition & fees is about $6,115.00 per academic year; however, students are required to show at least $26,710.00 in their financial documents (tuition, fees, etc.).

Is financial aid, or FAFSA, available to international students?

- No. International students do not qualify for state or federal financial aid programs.

How many classes do I have to take?

- F1 students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester at Cuyahoga Community College in order to maintain their visa status. This is considered full-time.
Can I take my classes online?

- Yes – however, at least 9 credits of your 12 credits must be taken as in-person, face-to-face, classes that physically meet.

Do I have to take all my classes at one campus?

- No, you are permitted to take classes at any Cuyahoga Community College location.

Can I work while in the United States?

- While you hold F-1 visa status, you are only allowed to work at the College. While classes are in session, you are not allowed to work more than 20 hours a week. Any other employment is considered unauthorized and is a violation of your visa status.

What is the deadline for submitting an application?

- Please see the application page for international student for the exact dates.

How do I get a student visa?

- After you are accepted by the College and receive the Form I-20 from the College, you must apply for your nonimmigrant “student” (F-1) visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate nearest your home. You must bring the necessary supporting documentation to your visa appointment, including your college acceptance letter, proof of payment of SEVIS fee, passport, your I-20 Form and appropriate financial documentation. Required documents depend on the country, so it is recommended that you check with the U.S. Consulate or embassy to determine what you need before your appointment.

How do I apply for a change of status?

- You will print out the change of status application and schedule an appointment with an International Student Coordinator for further guidance. This process can take the government anywhere to 4 to 6 months to make a decision. If you have a B1/B2 tourist visa and are changing your status, you cannot study until your case is adjudicated.

What is the weather like in Cleveland?

- When you arrive in August, temperatures will likely range from 70–90 degrees Fahrenheit (21–32 degrees Celsius). In November and December, temperatures can drop to 17–40 degrees Fahrenheit (–8––4 degrees Celsius) and are usually accompanied by rain, snow, and ice. These temperatures sometimes last until March. As springtime approaches in March and April, temperatures begin to rise again to about 45–60 degrees Fahrenheit (7–15 degrees Celsius) and can last throughout spring semester. Cleveland experiences all four seasons of weather.