



International Student Acceptance Information 2022-2023

Congratulations on your acceptance to CIIS! We are looking forward to having you join us! This International Student Acceptance packet includes information for international students on the next steps in getting 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 outline 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 Bridge Program Writing Intensive, housing options, the required New International Student Orientation and more. If you have any questions along the way, feel free to contact me at joconnor@ciis.edu. Please check the [CIIS Connect international student 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 "joconnor".

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 weeklong intensive/retreat once per semester, if applicable. Online programs are listed on the [CIIS Online Learning webpage](#).

Students in all residential programs will use the F-1 student visa to study at CIIS, unless you are in another visa status in the US already. Weekend or low-residency/semi-distance program students should obtain the F-1 student visa to enter the US for the several required in-person classes each semester whether or not they intend to live in the U.S. These programs include Human Sexuality, Community Mental Health and Integral Counseling Program—weekend format.



Obtaining the CIIS SEVIS I-20 Form

Below are the determined estimated cost requirements 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 **2022-2023** 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	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$25,000	\$32,000	\$15,450	\$16,500	\$10,000
Fees	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480
Room & 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
Total Per Year	\$53,680	\$54,680	\$57,680	\$64,680	\$48,130	\$49,180	\$42,680

Estimated tuition costs are based on required full-time enrollment. Estimated room & 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 with children: 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 study in a degree program part-time only and/or study in non-degree programs but may not work in the US. An F-2 child under 21 years old 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. Actual personal expenses will vary.

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.
- **Provide the Transfer Eligibility Form**, for students in the F-1 visa already who are transferring to CIIS from another institution.
- **Receive the CIIS SEVIS I-20 form from CIIS** electronically or via DHL Express mail
- **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. The Program Start date is the first day of the semester. Please check the [CIIS Academic Calendar](#).



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 based primarily 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 of external scholarships on the international students' pages of the [CIIS website](#).

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 study. Off-campus categories include Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Severe Economic Hardship. Details will be discussed at the New International Student Orientation. Most students who successfully complete their program use OPT after graduation and are eligible to work in their field full-time for up to 12 months.

Bridge Program Writing Intensive

The Bridge Program Intensive takes place at the beginning of each semester 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 semester. CIIS requires all incoming international students to participate regardless of their country of origin or their proficiency in English. All new students will receive information directly from the Bridge Program after being admitted. Information is on the [CIIS Bridge Program webpage](#) and CIIS Connect.

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 US and your future academic plans. Please review information through the following sites:

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

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



California Institute of Integral Studies

International Student Services

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 Writing Intensive, a peer mentor program and on-going events.
- Editing services—offered to all international students and non-native English speakers in the Center for Writing and Scholarship.
- 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—short-term and long-term planning with academics, visa status, cultural adjustment and more! Reach out!
- Tax Filing Resources

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
- Accessibility Services— assistance with accommodations made to one's academic study based on a documented permanent or temporary disability.
- Laurence S. Rockefeller Library— workshops, one-on-one appointments, private study rooms
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion—Bridge Program partner, workshops, lectures, educational events and much 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 much more.

Health Insurance and Housing

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.