Accepted International Student Guide

Your next steps after admission to Ecclesia College

Use this guide if you have been accepted and will seek or maintain F-1 student status. Chad Howard, Ecclesia's Designated School Official (DSO), will guide your I-20, SEVIS, and immigration steps.

> **Begin with the financial instructions for your entry term**
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> Confirm your entry term, program, housing plan, and accompanying dependents with Chad. Use the financial amount and period Ecclesia gives you for that enrollment. Published tuition and fees alone are not your complete I-20 funding requirement.

1. Prepare your I-20 documents

- ☐ Passport biographical page, with your name and personal details clearly readable.
- ☐ The Financial Guarantee Form and required financial evidence, using Ecclesia's instructions for your entry term.
- ☐ Guarantor certification and supporting documents if another person will support you.
- ☐ Information for any spouse or children who will accompany you; ask Chad for their required documents and additional funding amount.
- ☐ Official Ecclesia scholarship documentation, if awarded. Do not subtract an expected or unconfirmed award from your funding requirement.

Prepare clear financial evidence

Normally, use an official bank document dated within the last six months that identifies the account holder and shows available funds in a checking, savings, or time-deposit account. Include a certified English translation when needed. Ask Chad before relying on investments, credit limits, loan documents, or unclear screenshots.

Work-Learning credits are earned through approved work after arrival. Do not rely on future earnings for travel, initial living expenses, or payments due before work begins. Chad will confirm how documented funding may be considered in your I-20 review.

2. Complete the deposit and payment steps

The international enrollment deposit is required before I-20 issuance. Follow Ecclesia's current payment instructions, amount, and deadlines for your entry term, and retain your receipt. Review the Important Dates page and confirm any questions before you pay or make travel plans.

Review the current catalog refund policy before paying. A refund is not automatic; requests for an exception must be submitted in writing to Admissions under that policy.

Send I-20 documents and questions to Chad at **choward@ecollege.edu**, or use the submission method he provides. For application, transcript, reference, or admission-decision questions, contact **admissions@ecollege.edu**.

Current international instructions & forms | Important Dates | Cost & Aid | Academic Catalog

From your I-20 to arrival

Follow the pathway that matches your current status

3. Review your Form I-20

Ecclesia reviews your acceptance, passport, financial evidence, deposit, and any dependent or transfer documents before issuing your I-20. When it arrives, check your name, birth information, citizenship, program, education level, start date, and financial details. Report errors to Chad and sign the form as directed.

Applying for an initial F-1 visa

After receiving and checking your I-20, follow Chad's instructions for the I-901 SEVIS fee and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate's instructions for the DS-160 and visa interview. Tell Chad your appointment date and decision. If a visa requirement does not apply to you, Chad will confirm your entry instructions.

Already studying in U.S. F-1 status

Coordinate with Chad and your current school's DSO. Provide the requested transfer form, current I-20, passport, visa if available, U.S. address, and proposed SEVIS release date. Your current school must release the record before Ecclesia issues a transfer-pending I-20. Continue meeting your current school's F-1 requirements. Ask Chad which fee, visa, and travel steps apply to your transfer.

4. Confirm travel and arrival

- Wait for visa approval when required and confirm your arrival plan with Ecclesia before booking final travel. New students entering in initial F-1 status may enter no more than 30 days before the I-20 program start date; coordinate your actual arrival date with Chad.
- Confirm housing, payment status, arrival date, flight details when requested, and emergency contact information. Review the Student & Family Guide for campus preparation.
- Carry your passport, Form I-20, visa when required, acceptance letter, financial documents, applicable SEVIS fee receipt, and Ecclesia contact details in your carry-on bag.

5. Complete check-in and enrollment

Follow Chad's international check-in instructions. Be ready to provide your passport, visa when applicable, I-20, I-94 arrival record after U.S. entry, U.S. address, local phone number if available, and emergency contact. Complete your remaining registration, payment, housing, and orientation steps.

Stay in contact with your DSO. Ask Chad before changing your course load or program, transferring schools, traveling internationally, or starting employment. Report address or contact changes promptly.

APPLICATION & ADMISSION

admissions@ecollege.edu

I-20, SEVIS & IMMIGRATION

Chad Howard | choward@ecollege.edu

Student & Family Guide | U.S. student visa instructions | International admissions