

International Student Sponsorships

Immigration Services is responsible for issuing sponsorship paperwork for international students coming to UGA in academic degree or non-degree programs, including for the Intensive English Program and exchange programs.

In general, we will offer the F-1 visa category or the J-1 visa category for these sponsorships. Students may be eligible for one or both categories, but the final decision on the appropriate category will be made by the immigration advisor.

There is a range of other visa types that may allow a student to enroll full-time in a program of study. Immigration Services will evaluate the status of students coming to UGA on other visa types to determine enrollment eligibility.

Students on F-2 dependent visas and B-1 / B-2 visas, or on ESTA waivers, may not legally enroll in a full-time program of study.

In some cases, people holding these visa types may enroll in casual or recreational programs, part-time. Immigration Services will review the status and enrollment level of any person wishing to enroll while holding one of these statuses. *These students will be limited to enrolling on one class per term, to improve their English speaking and listening skills.*

1. **You** must fill out the UGA IEP application form here:
<https://globalengagement.uga.edu/immigration/international-students/intensive-english-program/iep-application-program-information/>
2. After submitting the application form, you will receive an automated response email with three weblinks:
 - a. a link where you must pay the IEP application fee
 - b. a link where you must upload necessary documents, such as your passport
 - c. a link where you must book an appointment for a short English proficiency assessment interview on Zoom
3. The **UGA IEP** will review your application and decide your admission.
4. The **UGA IEP** team will begin the F-1 or J-1 visa sponsorship process for you.
5. **You** will receive an acceptance letter for the UGA IEP via email.
6. **You** will receive an email from Immigration Services. This email provides instructions for requesting the form F-1 I-20 or J-1 DS-2019 in our web portal, Compass.
7. **You** must submit:
 - a. Copy of your Passport
 - b. Proof of Financial Support
 - c. If inside the U.S., proof of your current immigration status and U.S. Address
8. **UGA Immigration Services** will review your I-20 or DS-2019 application.
9. **UGA Immigration Services** will send the I-20 or DS-2019 to you by email.
10. **UGA Immigration Services** will send instructions for the visa application at a U.S. Consulate or change of status application within the U.S.
11. **You** should review this guide before arriving at the UGA IEP:
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/guide/f-1/f-1-english-language-training>
12. **You** must pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee payment before your visa appointment.
<https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html>
13. If you are outside the U.S., **You** may not enter the U.S. more than 30 days before your IEP Program begins.
14. **You** must complete mandatory immigration check-in before starting the IEP Program.
15. **You** must complete mandatory immigration orientation.
16. **You** must follow all enrollment requirements to maintain your F-1 or J-1 immigration status.

IEP Applicant Questions

Contact the IEP directly (iep@uga.edu) if you have questions about:

- Admission
- Cost
- Program dates & course schedule
- Courses
- Transferring to the UGA IEP from another IEP in the U.S.
- Fulfilling the UGA Graduate School's [English language proficiency requirement for international students](#) through the IEP (TOEFL & IELTS questions)
- Health insurance
- Attendance
- Social events

Contact Ashley Johnson, Associate Director of UGA Immigration Services (ashleyhj@uga.edu) if you have questions about:

- The I-20 or DS-2019 (including extensions)
- Visa-related and immigration status-related questions
- Traveling abroad
- Working in the U.S. (including employment on campus)
- Obtaining your Social Security Number (SSN)
- Changing your Immigration Status
- Transferring your immigration status from one IEP to another