

Office of Graduate Admission

International Student Handbook

Obtain a visa

Housing application

E-mail account setup

Arrival preparations

Campus news

Important dates

Contact information

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WELCOME

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)! We welcome you to our campus. This handbook has been prepared to ensure that your transition to the United States goes as smoothly as possible. It is imperative that you take the time to read through this handbook as it contains the guidelines you need to follow to come to the United States and enroll for classes at IIT.

- ✓ Use our helpful hints to obtain your student visa.
- ✓ Refer to the list of dates at the end of the handbook to plan your move.
- ✓ Fill out and mail all of the enclosed forms.

If you have any questions after reading through this handbook, see the list of contact names for IIT staff who can further assist you. We wish you great success as you continue your education at IIT!

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CHECKLIST

This handbook has been designed to guide you through registration and enrollment, and to help you arrive safely and efficiently. Be sure that all of the items on this checklist have been completed to begin your studies at IIT.

Preparation:

- Appointment with Consular Office
- Obtained Visa
- Email account activated
- Flight arrangements
- Transportation arrangements
- Housing application mailed
- Immunization form completed

Upon arrival:

- International Center Check-In
- Attend Orientation
- Stop by Office of Graduate Admission if necessary
- Health Insurance form dropped off
- Speak with your Academic Advisor
- Enroll in classes
- Have a great semester!

OBTAINING A STUDENT VISA

With your admission letter, you have received a SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 form. Take this form to the visa section of the American Embassy or Consulate nearest you and present it with the proof of financial support, your passport and acceptance letter from IIT. You can apply for a visa up to 3 months prior to the start of your program listed on the form, but the timing of your application may vary depending on the consular post. Please check the U.S. State Department website at www.usembassy.state.gov to find out about visa application procedures implemented at various consulates. General information about entry visas into the U.S. can be obtained at www.unitedstatesvisas.gov.

There are two types of student visas available to international students:

F-1 visa- issued to holders of SEVIS I-20 forms, permits study in the U.S. and a period of practical training following completion of program.

J-1 visa- issued to holders of DS-2019 forms, permits study in the U.S. and a period of academic training. Please note that under certain circumstances, an individual is subject to a two-year home country presence requirement after completion of the program and academic training.

Information for Dependents

Students who intend to bring their spouses and children with them to the U.S. must provide to Admissions their names, dates of birth and countries of citizenship so that each dependent is issued his or her own SEVIS I-20/DS-2019. If the dependents are planning to arrive later, the student should contact the International Center who will issue a dependent I-20/DS-2019 for spouse and/or children only. The student must have a bank letter showing availability of funds amounting to \$4,000.00 for the spouse and an additional \$2,000.00 for each dependent child. These amounts are in addition to the amount required for you.

Spouses and children of J-1 students obtain J-2 visas

Spouses and children of F-1 students obtain F-2 visas

10 Points to Remember when applying for a student visa

- ✓ **Ties to home country:** Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. You must therefore be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States. “Ties” to your home country are the things that bind you to your hometown, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc. If you are a prospective undergraduate, the interviewing officer may ask about your specific intentions or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, educational objectives, grades, long-range plans, and career prospects in your home country. Each person’s situation is different, of course, and there is no magic explanation or single document, certificate, or letter, which can guarantee visa issuance.