



QUEENSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CUNY

Dear International Student,

Enclosed you will find your Immigration Form I-20. This form is the U.S. Government Certificate of Eligibility to attend **Queensborough Community College** of the City University of New York. Please look at your Form I-20 to make sure that all the information is correct. You will need this form and your financial support papers to apply for the F-1 student visa at a U.S. consulate/embassy.

To apply for the F-1 student visa, you must make an appointment for a visa interview at your local consulate or embassy and you must pay a \$200 SEVIS fee. At the interview you will need your Form I-20, your financial supporting documents, and a SEVIS fee receipt. I have attached instructions on how to pay the fee. You can find more information on the Department of Homeland Security website at fmjfee.com as well as view an [I-901 fee payment tutorial](#).

It is extremely important that you be very well prepared for your interview with the consular officer. The officer must be convinced that your ties to your home country are strong and that you will return after you finish your studies in the U.S. S/he may ask you to provide additional documents or evidence that show strong family, social, and economic ties your country such as property ownership, job offers, etc. If the officer is not reasonably sure that you will return home at the end of your studies, your visa application may be denied. To learn more details about the visa interview requirements of the United States consulate, please visit the consulate website at the [U.S. Department of State](#)

As the holder of Form I-20 it is important for you to become familiar with immigration regulations of F-1 students and understand how these regulations can affect your stay in the United States. Please read page 3 of your Form I-20. It has very important information about the responsibilities of an F-1 student. You can review all the United States regulations regarding F-1 international students by visiting the [U.S. Code of Federal Regulations](#), the [student section of Study in the States](#), or the [Study in the States blog](#).

Your Form I-20 has a date when you must report to the school (see Program Start Date under Program of Study). The earliest you can enter the United States is 30 days before the indicated date. If you try to enter the country before this date, you may be denied entry by the officer at the port of entry and instructed to return to your home country. If you are permitted to enter the United States, you will receive a stamp in your passport indicating the date of entry. Once your entry is recorded, you can obtain your electronic [I-94 record](#). Make copies of this record and other important documents such as your passport, visa stamp, and financial documents and keep them in a safe place. As soon as you receive your visa, please contact us to secure an appointment to take the CUNY Assessment tests in reading, writing, and math. Failure to do so will severely limit your choices in class registration and may result in you taking classes inappropriate for your curriculum.

If you have not already acquired housing, you can apply for [CUNY](#) or [non-CUNY housing](#).

Finally, you must see me at Queensborough Community College after your arrival in the U.S. and before you can begin your classes. At that time, you will be required to present copies of your passport, visa decal in your passport, port of entry stamp, I-94, and Form I-20. You must also give us your address in the United States. My office is located at **222-05 56th Avenue, Library Building room L-431**. If you need more help, please call the Center for International Affairs, Immigration, and Study Abroad directly at **718-631-6611** or send me an email at jballerini@qcc.cuny.edu.

Good luck in obtaining your U.S. student visa! I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming semester.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ballerini, DSO
Academic Adviser