INFORMATION ON OBTAINING A F-1 STUDENT VISA

As an international student who will be temporarily residing in the United States, you are required to comply with United States immigration laws. The United States strictly enforces a very detailed set of rules and regulations governing foreign nationals. Your adherence to the requirements and procedures articulated below will help you to avoid unnecessary difficulties. Please read the information below carefully.

SEVIS
The Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is an online database that connects the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) with U.S. colleges and universities by providing information on international students and scholars. Applicants for F-1 and J-1 visas are required to pay a one-time SEVIS fee of $350 to supplement the administration and maintenance costs of SEVIS.

F-1 Student Visas
Having a U.S. visa is like having a key to enter the country. The expiration date on your visa is the last day you may enter the United States from abroad. You need a valid visa every time you enter the country. Depending upon the type of visa you use to enter the U.S., you are subject to different guidelines in order to "maintain status" or remain in this country legally. The Graduate and International Programs office can help guide students through the application for F-1 student visas.

Form I-20
To apply for an F-1 visa, you will need a Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.” Using the SEVIS system, the Graduate and International Programs office at McGeorge will issue the Form I-20 under the following conditions:

1. You have been fully admitted into a program of study at the law school;
2. You have shown proof of financial support for the first year of study. You must submit a complete Certification of Finances form along with the required supporting documents.
3. You have paid your tuition deposit through your portal.

PROCESS

Step 1: Certification of Finances – This form is used to show proof of financial support for your first year of study. You must demonstrate sufficient funding to cover all expenses including tuition, fees, books and living expenses. Funding may come from your own personal account, a private sponsor's account and/or scholarships or loans that have been approved. In addition to filling out the form, you will need to provide adequate verification of the funds. Verification documents include:

- Letter from your bank or your sponsor's bank stating the available funds. The letter must be on official letterhead and dated within the last three months; and/or
- Official award letter stating the amount and duration of the scholarship/grant awarded, if applicable; and/or
- Loan approval letter from the granting institution, stating the loan amount, if applicable.

See the Certification of Finances form below for more information.

Copies of the financial verification documents may be sent to the law school (by email is fine). The originals should be retained by you so that you will have them available when applying for your visa at the U.S. embassy/consulate and for use at the port of entry.

Step 2: SEVIS Fee - Once you have obtained the Form I-20 from the law school, you will need to pay the required $350 SEVIS fee, get the fee receipt and make an appointment at the embassy/consulate. To pay your SEVIS fee, please go to www.fmjfee.com.

Step 3: F-1 Visa - You will need to bring the following documents to the embassy/consulate:

- Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status (Form I-20)
- Passport — The passport must be valid for travel to the United States and be valid for at least six months after the date you enter in the United States
- Proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses
- Receipt for the $350 SEVIS payment
- Any other documents required by your local consular office.

Note: The visa application process and required documents may differ depending upon the requirements of the specific consular office. Please check your local consular office requirements.

Note: Students who are citizens of Canada do not require a visa but are required to present their Form I-20, passport and additional supporting financial documents to the U.S. Immigration Inspector at the U.S. port of entry.

Step 4: Entering the U.S. - You need to present the following documents to an immigration inspector at the U.S. port of entry:

- Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status (Form I-20)
- Passport — The passport must be valid for travel to the United States and be valid for at least six months after the date you enter in the United States
- F-1 visa
- Proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses

The immigration inspector decides whether or not to admit you into the U.S. with F-1 non-immigrant student status.

Step 5: After Arrival: Complete Student & Scholar Visa Overview Session During Orientation – Please bring the following documents with you to this orientation session: passport containing your visa, validated I-20 form, and printed I-94 form. The I-94 form is obtained online after arrival at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home. We will make copies of all these documents for our records.

During this orientation session, we will give you important information and some additional forms to be filled out and returned to our office. Please contact us if you have any difficulties or are unsure about anything discussed in this letter. We look forward to meeting you and working with you during your studies at McGeorge.

With very best regards,
The Graduate & International Programs Staff at McGeorge

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CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Instructions for Certification of Finances

The United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS) of the United States Government Department of Homeland Security requires the University of the Pacific to certify the financial resources of all international applicants. This form is to assist the university in meeting this legal responsibility and it must be completed carefully.

You are required to certify that you will have funds available for your studies while attending the university.

A. Financial Requirements

The following are the **estimated** living and educational costs for one academic year (10 months) at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year is subject to approval by the board of regents.

	Tuition & Fees	Living Expenses	Other Costs	Total Cost for Applicant	1St Dependent	Each Additional Dependent
LLM Program (10 months)	**$38,525**	**$18,804**	**$5,872**	**$63,201**	**$9,402**	**$4,701**
Tuition	$37,945					
Fees	$580					
Living Expenses		$18,804			$9,402	$4,701
Health Insurance*			$2,712			
Books			$3,160			

* University of the Pacific has a mandatory student health insurance policy. You will automatically be enrolled in our health insurance.

Please check with the Graduate and International Programs Office for the most current rates after May. University tuition and fees are subject to periodic increase.

B. Documents Certifying Funding

Please submit proof of funding for studies at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

1. ***Bank letter***: The letter from your bank, if sponsoring yourself, or from a sponsor's bank, must:

   - be in English;
   - be on bank letterhead/stationery (which should include the name and address of the bank);
   - have the name of the account holder(s);
   - have the amount of funds for at least the amount required for the first year of the program in the currency of the country and the conversion amount in U.S. dollars;
   - have the bank official's name and signature;
   - not be more than 3 months old when sent to the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

2. ***Sponsor letter**** If you have a sponsor, the letter from the sponsor must state that the sponsor will be financially responsible for your education while you are at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. It must include your name, the sponsor's name and address, and the sponsor's signature. The sponsor must also provide a bank letter certifying funds (follow bank letter requirements). Letters must not be more than 3 months old when sent to the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

*If you have more than one sponsor, you must provide a letter from each sponsor and a letter from each sponsor's bank. If there is more than one person on a bank account, each person must sign a sponsor letter.

C. Other Official Documents
For yourself:

1. Identification: We need a copy for your passport ID page to ensure accuracy on your I-20 form.

If you are traveling with dependent(s):

1. Identification: We need a copy for the passport ID page for each of your dependent(s).

2. Health Insurance: We need proof that all dependents will carry medical insurance while in the United States.

3. Proof of Relationship: We need a copy of either a birth certificate or a marriage certificate.

NOTE – All documents need to be in English. If the original is not in English, please submit a **certified translation**.

D. Please send this form and all supporting documents to graduatelaw@pacific.edu.

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

E. Application for I-20
Complete and return to McGeorge Graduate & International Programs.

Family Name (Surname)

First Name (Given name)

Date of Birth: Month Day Year

City and Country of Birth

Country of Citizenship

Country of Permanent Residence

Date of First Enrollment in LL.M. Program

Expected Date of Graduation

Email

Phone Number

Dependents (Complete **ONLY** if spouse or children will accompany you to the U.S.)
If you need additional space, please provide information on an attached page.

Dependent Number 1

Family Name (Surname)

First Name (Given name)

Date of Birth: Month Day Year

City and Country of Birth

Country of Citizenship

Country of Permanent Residence

Dependent Number 2

Family Name (Surname)

First Name (Given name)

Date of Birth: Month Day Year

City and Country of Birth

Country of Citizenship

Country of Permanent Residence

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

F. Sponsorship & Certification of Funding
Complete and return to McGeorge Graduate & International Programs.

The funds for my education will be distributed as follows:

Applicant	Dependents	Total	Amount to be assured and source	
			Amount	**Source* (myself, sponsor such as parents, scholarship, etc.)**
US$63,201	US $	US$	US$	
			US$	
			US$	

☐ Dependents will accompany me to the US. Number of dependents _____

I (please print your name), _____ certify that I am submitting official documentation that the total amount of funds that I have available for my **full year of study** at University of the Pacific is US$ _____.

I have also submitted official documentation that the total amount of funds that I have available for the full year for the above listed dependents is US$ _____.

Check one:
☐ I am sponsoring myself. I have enclosed a letter from my bank.
☐ I have a sponsor. I have enclosed a letter from the sponsor and a letter from the sponsor's bank.
☐ I have more than one sponsor. I have enclosed a letter from each sponsor and a letter from each sponsor's bank.
☐ A government agency or institution is my sponsor. I have enclosed a letter of sponsorship.

I certify that the financial information given is complete and accurate.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Please retain originals of all financial documents for your records. You may have to show proof of adequate funding to U.S. consular officials when applying for a visa and to immigration officials at the port of entry.

NOTE: You must be formally admitted to the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, confirmed your enrollment by having paid your $250 seat deposit, and must have submitted the Application for I-20 and Certification of Funding, along with all other required supporting documents to our satisfaction before the University will send you an I-20 form for your visa application. Please send this form and **all** supporting documents to graduatelaw@pacific.edu.

Address:

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED FORM

Applicant	Dependents	Total	Amount to be assured and source	
			Amount	**Source* (myself, sponsor such as parents, scholarship, etc.)**
US$**56,526**	US$	US$56,526	US$ 17,000	**Myself**
			US$ 30,000	**Sponsor**
			US$ 11,000	**Scholarship**