



Undergraduate Admissions Guide for International Students

Florida Gulf Coast University

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

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*Florida Gulf Coast University is accredited by the
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)*

1866 Southern Lane

Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Telephone number 404-679-4501

to award Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral degrees.

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Undergraduate Admissions Information

The term international student refers to any student who is not a permanent resident or naturalized citizen of the United States.

The admissions process begins with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. This office provides prospective undergraduate students with information on academic programs and services as well information for international students who would like to study at **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)**. This office also prepares the I-20 form for eligible international students which is used to obtain an F-1 student visa.

FGCU international student admissibility is based on:

1. Academic credentials
2. Financial documentation
3. Visa and US immigration requirements

If you currently have a visa other than an F-1 visa, you should consult the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to discuss your immigration status. Each visa category has guidelines that determine how the visa holder can enroll at the University. Prospective students who have visas, passports or other immigration documents that have expired may need to get those updated prior to their application for an F-1 visa. *Florida Gulf Coast University does not provide legal advice on immigration matters. Unfortunately, prospective students who are determined to be "Out of Status" with immigration cannot be admitted to the University.*

After your admission is secured at FGCU, the **Office of Global Initiatives and International Services** can assist you with providing support services specifically designed for international students. These services include international orientation/check-in to the University, information on living and studying in the US, assistance with cross-cultural adjustment and transition issues, information and assistance with US Immigration documents and regulations as well as campus employment and various other services.

Steps for International Student Enrollment

For admission to FGCU, you will need to:

1. Apply for admission
2. Submit your \$30.00 application fee
3. Submit your academic transcripts (have your transcripts evaluated course by course)
** Information on approved transcript evaluation services is listed below
4. Submit admission test scores (either the ACT or SAT for undergraduate; GMAT, GRE or MAT for graduate). **The writing portion of the ACT & SAT is not required.**
5. Provide proof of English proficiency (TOEFL exam: 213 computer based, 550 paper based or 79 internet based minimum or IELTS exam: 6.5 minimum)
6. Submit a financial support statement. For specific guidelines, please refer to:
<http://www.fgcu.edu/Admissions/Prospective/financialforms.html>
7. If you are transferring from a US college or university or progressing from an undergraduate to a graduate program within the US, you must provide a visa clearance form authorized by the appropriate officials at your current institution. For more information, please refer to:
<https://www.fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid/undergraduateadmissions/admissionforms#VisaClearanceForm>
8. Obtain a copy of passport, visa, /I-94 form, current I-20, etc.

Important notes:

Once you have been academically admitted and fulfilled the immigration requirements, you will be mailed an I-20 form from the FGCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions. You will need to take this document to a US Embassy or Consulate Office to apply for the F-1 student visa. In your acceptance packet, you will receive information regarding the mandatory University orientation dates along with health insurance and immunization requirements for international students.

Additional information:

- Provide appropriate immunization information to Student Health Services 239-590-7966
<http://www.fgcu.edu/studenthealth/immunizations.html>
Additionally, you must provide appropriate insurance information that meets the State of Florida requirements.
- Apply for on-campus housing if you wish to live on campus. For more housing information, refer to:
<http://www.fgcu.edu/Housing>
- For merit scholarship information, refer to:
<http://www.fgcu.edu/Admissions/Prospective/scholarship.html>
- If you have studied at college or university outside of the US, a course by course evaluation of the academic credits you earned is required for any college courses taken.
** For international student transcript evaluations, we suggest you contact one of the international agencies located on the following website:
<http://www.naces.org/members.html>

Please request that the agency send the results directly by mail to the FGCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions as an official document. Should you require any additional information, please contact Undergraduate Admissions at our toll free number (888) 889-1095 or e-mail admissions@fgcu.edu

International Student Deadlines

Completed applications and ALL materials must be received by the following dates:

Deadline for Fall Semester (Begins August)	July 1
Deadline for Spring Semester (Begins January)	November 1
Summer	By special permission only

Education in the United States

International students applying to FGCU as a first-time-in-college freshman must have the equivalent of a US High School Diploma.

Bachelor's Degree

The Bachelor's degree normally requires four years of study (more for some programs). This degree includes required general education courses as well as specialization courses in the chosen field of study.

Master's Degree

A Bachelor's degree is required of all students who desire to enter a Master's degree program. The Master's degree generally requires two years of study beyond the Bachelor's degree, depending on the number of courses a student completes each academic term.

Level of Placement and Transfer of Academic Credits

FGCU does not evaluate foreign credentials or transcripts. Your transcripts and credentials must be evaluated by one of the aforementioned international transcript evaluators. *All foreign transcripts should be evaluated for equivalency purposes.* University-level coursework taken abroad may be transferable if earned at a recognized institution depending on academic equivalency. International students who have completed university level coursework and are interested in transferring academic credit to Florida Gulf Coast University should submit an original evaluation of courses taken **and** an English translation of course syllabi for which credit is desired. Undergraduate students are placed at the appropriate level for their educational background. However, academic departments have the option of denying credit for any coursework not applicable to that department. The University recommends choosing the course by course evaluation, with grades or marks and credit hours equated to the system in the US First Time in College or Lower Level Transfer students may choose the document by document evaluation for their high school courses if they wish; however, if the evaluation agency does not provide a GPA, the student must meet the minimum SAT (1450) or ACT (21) requirement. Transcripts and test scores received and opened by the university may not be transferred to a third party or the applicant.

Academic Calendar

Florida Gulf Coast University operates on a semester calendar. Fall semester begins in late August and ends in mid December. Spring semester begins in early January and ends in late April or early May. There are three summer sessions; two that begin in May and one that begins in June. Summer sessions condense an intensive level of academic study into a short time period. To view the academic calendar and catalog on line, refer to <https://www.fgcu.edu/academics/academiccalendar>

Enrollment Term

FGCU strongly advises that international students who are enrolling as first-time-in-college students, or freshmen, begin enrollment in either the Fall or Spring semester. Beginning during Fall or Spring offers a better opportunity to become familiar with the university, the pace of academic study, and the ability to maintain the appropriate course sequence required for the degree. Some programs admit students during specified terms only. Summer enrollment exceptions may be permitted on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Degree program requirements, immigration regulations and other factors may determine a student's enrollment term.

Course Credits

Students may enroll for a particular number of semester hours or credits. Most courses earn three or four credits. A course that earns three credits means that a student will generally attend that class for three hours each week. **All international students are required to be enrolled full time (12 hours or more for undergraduate students and 9 hours or more for graduate students) during the Fall and Spring semesters.** Students must earn a minimum of 120 semester hours for most Baccalaureate degrees. Graduate degrees vary in the number of hours required according to the individual program.

Financial Responsibility

For I-20 purposes, international students are required by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service to show adequate proof of their ability to financially support themselves (and any dependents) for the duration of their studies in the US. International students are generally not permitted to be employed (except for on-campus jobs) while studying in the US, and therefore need to ensure full financial support for their education. All applicants must submit proof of financial resources in US currency equivalent to the cost of attending Florida Gulf Coast University for one academic year (refer to the Estimated Expenses information). The **Financial Support Form** must be completed and signed by an official of your financial institution (such as a bank) where your funds are deposited, or by a sponsor who will be legally responsible for your financial support. **The Financial Support Form must be submitted in its original form. No photocopies will be accepted. This document should be dated no more than six months prior to the intended date of enrollment.**

Scholarships and Financial Support

International students are **not** eligible for State of Florida or US Federal Financial Aid programs. However, international students may apply for other scholarships through the FGCU Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. For more information on FGCU scholarships, please visit the Scholarship website: <https://www.fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid/financialaid/undergraduate/typesofaid/scholarships.aspx#InternationalStudentsScholarships>. You may also contact our Enrollment Services Center at (239) 590-7920 or by email: esc@fgcu.edu. International Students from certain countries may apply for partial tuition exemptions through Florida's State University Systems' Linkage program. Information on these tuition waivers is available from the FGCU Global initiatives and International Services. For more information on these waivers, please visit www.fgcu.edu/international or contact the office at (239)-590-7925 or by email at internationalservices@fgcu.edu. International students may also want to seek scholarships and other forms of financial support from their home country governments, employers, family, and/or foundations.

Transfer Students

You are considered a “**transfer student**” if:

1. You have earned college or university credit at another post-secondary institution
2. You are currently enrolled in another US higher education academic institution
3. You are moving from undergraduate to graduate level at FGCU
4. You are seeking a second degree at FGCU

To transfer to FGCU, you should have been pursuing a full course of study (12 undergraduate hours or 9 graduate hours) in your former program or be on authorized practical training. Otherwise, you may be “Out of Status” and may have to apply to the US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) for reinstatement to F-1 status which, if granted, will allow you to request enrollment at FGCU as F-1 status.

Visa Clearance Form

You will need a **Visa Clearance Form** verifying your visa status if you are a transfer student currently attending a US high school, college, or university. This form **must** be signed by the Designated School Official (DSO) at your current institution and be sent in a **sealed envelope** to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at FGCU. To download the **Visa Clearance Form**, please go to

<https://www.fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid/undergraduateadmissions/admissionforms#VisaClearanceForm>

Medical Insurance

International students are required to be covered by a personal medical insurance program that meets the requirements of the State of Florida. **Proof of medical insurance is not needed for admission purposes but must be provided to the University prior to registration for classes.** Information on an approved medical insurance program can be obtained from the International Services office <https://www.fgcu.edu/academics/internationalservices/ourservices>. Students who currently have a medical insurance policy must demonstrate to FGCU that the policy meets the requirements of the State of Florida.

Housing and Transportation

International students are encouraged to consider living on campus. Living on campus promotes the student's involvement in both the academic and social communities of the university. For more information on living on campus, please visit Housing and Residence Life at <http://www.fgcu.edu/Housing> or contact the office at (239) 590-1700 or by email at housing@fgcu.edu. International students may also arrange their own accommodations in area apartments, with relatives or with a U.S. sponsor. A sponsor who hosts an international student should sign the **Financial Support Statement from Sponsor Form** to verify that they are providing the room and board as a form of financial support to the student.

Students living off campus will need to provide their own transportation to the FGCU campus. Public transportation is available. International students who plan to drive their own automobiles are responsible for meeting all driver's license, registration, and insurance requirements for the State of Florida.



Estimated Expenses for International Students 2020-2021

A certificate of eligibility (I-20) will not be issued until proof of sufficient funds is verified by the student's financial institution and/or sponsor.

Note: It is estimated that expenses will increase by 10% each year.

Estimated Expenses for 2020-2021		Undergraduate living with parent or local sponsor	Undergraduate self- supporting	Graduate
Medical Insurance		2,923	2,923	2,923
Books and Supplies		1,200	1,200	1,200
Tuition and Fees		20,411	20,411	23,623
Personal Expenses		1,700	1,700	1,700
Transportation		1,700	1,700	1,700
Housing and meals (Room and Board)	Student contribution	4,836	9,672	9,672
	SUBTOTAL	32,770		
	Sponsor*	4,836*		
TOTAL (US dollars)		\$37,606	\$37,606**	\$40,818**

*Submit Sponsor's Financial Support Statement indicating a maximum of US \$4,836 of support by providing housing and meals. Note: the person sponsoring you must be from our local area, not abroad.

**International students are required to maintain a full academic course load each semester (minimum of 12 undergraduate hours or 9 graduate hours.) Estimated expenses are based on the yearly required course loads.

Additional funds are required for any dependents who accompany you. For a nine (9) month period, the US requires \$6,000 for each dependent. For a twelve (12) month period, the US requires \$9,000 for each dependent.



Financial Support Verification Letter from Bank

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please refer to the **Estimated Expenses for International Students** form for exact costs based on graduate, undergraduate and sponsor factors. **ALL figures MUST be in US (dollars)**. Foreign currency figures **ARE NOT** acceptable. The **Financial Support Verification Letter** can be submitted **instead** of the **Financial Support Statement**. **It must be an original document on a bank or financial firm's letterhead. This document should be dated no more than six months prior to the intended date of enrollment.**

The **Financial Support Verification Letter** *must* include the following (**please use this as a guide**):

Date (day/ month/year)

Re: Sponsoring (name of student to attend Florida Gulf Coast University)

**To : Florida Gulf Coast University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
International Admissions
10501 FGCU Boulevard South
Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565**

I / We certify that (**Name of account holder**) currently has a minimum of US \$ (**total amount of funds required for you to attend the university for one year**) in an account with our firm, to be applied to educational expenses for (**Name of student**) to attend Florida Gulf Coast University beginning (**date or term you intend to enroll**).

Sincerely,

(Signature of bank/Financial Officer)
(Print Name of Bank/Financial Officer)
(Address and Telephone number)



Financial Support Statement from Sponsor

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please refer to the Estimated Expenses for International Students form for exact costs based on graduate, undergraduate, and sponsor factors. Be certain to enter the correct amount in the spaces provided. **All figures MUST be in US currency (dollars).** Foreign currency figures **ARE NOT** acceptable. *This document should be dated no more than six months prior to the intended date of enrollment, and should include a copy of a bank statement to verify funds.*

The **Financial Support Statement from Sponsor** must include the information in the form below.

Date (day/month/year)

Re: Sponsoring _____
Name of student

To: Florida Gulf Coast University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
International Admissions
Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Boulevard South
Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565

I / We will financially support _____ for the minimum amount of
Name of student

US \$ _____ to attend Florida Gulf Coast University, beginning

Term Beginning Classes

Sincerely,

Signature of Sponsor

Printed name of Sponsor

Street Address

Telephone Number

City State Zip

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VISA CLEARANCE/TRANSFER FORM

To be completed by international students transferring from U.S. high schools, colleges or universities to FGCU.

As a part of the application process to Florida Gulf Coast University, you must show that you are currently in legal status according to USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services) regulations. To verify your status, you must:

Step 1: Complete Section I of this form first

Step 2: Your international advisor at your current/previous school **must complete Section II**

Step 3: Your international advisor must mail or fax the completed form to FGCU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

IMPORTANT: We cannot issue your I-20 for transfer until your release date (the day you will complete your attendance at your current institution), and without receipt of this completed Visa Clearance/Transfer Form verifying that you are in status.

Issuing your I-20 after the release date may take several weeks. Please allow ample time.

Section I – TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT

I request and authorize my present international student advisor (or equivalent campus officer) to provide the information below as part of my application for admission to Florida Gulf Coast University.

Signature Date U.S. Social Security Number Expected FGCU Entry Date
(leave blank if you do not have one)

Student's Name _____
(As it appears in passport) Last Name/Family Name/Surname/Given Name Country of Citizenship

Present Address _____
Street and Apartment Number City and State Zip Code Phone Number

Section II - TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR:

Student's I-94 Admission Number: _____ Expiration date _____ or D/S _____
Date of last entry into the United States: _____

Student's SEVIS ID Number: _____ SEVIS Release Date: _____

Last term student was enrolled full time at your institution _____ Specify Campus/Branch _____
(if university has multiple campuses)

To the best of your knowledge, is/was this student in status as an F-1 Student and eligible for notification of transfer? ___Yes ___No **If not, please explain:** _____

Has the student ever been granted any kind of practical training? ___Yes ___No
If so, please identify kind and duration

Signature of School Official (or DSO) Date Printed Name/Title

Name of Institution Address/ City/State/Zip Code Telephone Number

UNDERGRADUATE: Florida Gulf Coast University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
FAX: 239-590-7894 10501 FGCU Blvd. South
Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565
For questions regarding this form, please call: Office: 239-590-7878