

Getting an I-20 from Saint Mary's College



To begin the process of applying for an F-1 student visa, you will need to submit financial documentation to prove that you can support your studies at Saint Mary's in order to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20. You need an I-20 *before* you can apply for an F-1 student visa. All students must secure an F-1 student visa as you are not permitted to study in the U.S. on a tourist or Visa Waiver Program (ESTA) visa. Please follow the instructions below to obtain an I-20 from Saint Mary's.

STEP 1 – Upload a copy of your valid passport to your applicant portal

- This is the same portal that you used to apply to Saint Mary's
- Go to: admissions.stmarys-ca.edu

STEP 2 – Complete the Certificate of Finances Form

- Be sure to complete all required sections thoroughly – instructions are included below
- Don't forget to sign it

STEP 3 – Upload financial documents to your applicant portal

- Read the "Requirements for Supporting Financial Documents" section on page 1 of the Certificate of Finances Form for acceptable types of financial documents

STEP 4 – Receive your I-20 from Saint Mary's

- The I-20 will be emailed to your SMC email address
- Detailed instructions on how to apply for the F-1 visa will be sent with the I-20

Instructions for Completing the Certificate of Finances Form

Student Information

- All information is required for issuing the I-20

Section A: Sources of Financial Support

- List all sources of funding available – must equal or exceed the Estimated Total Cost of Attendance
- Personal Funds = the student's money
- Sponsorship Funds = money from family, friends, employer, government, etc.
- Scholarship Funds from Saint Mary's = all merit, academic and/or athletic scholarships
- Tuition Paid to Date = the initial deposit and any other tuition payments to date
- Other = any source of funding not mentioned above, i.e. student loans, etc.
- All sources of funding listed on the Certificate of Finances needs to be verified by providing official documentation proving the availability of the funding source

Section B: Sponsorship Information

- All sponsors must sign this section and include the U.S. Dollar amount that they plan to use to support the student's educational expenses
- Sponsors must provide official documentation showing the U.S. Dollar amount stated in Section B is available

Section C: Financial Institution Information

- This section can be completed by a representative of a financial institution or bank rather than submitting a bank statement or letter
- Must be signed and stamped by a representative of the financial institution or bank
- This section is not required if you plan to submit a bank statement or letter

Student Signature

- The student must sign and date the form

Center for International Programs Contact Information

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