



BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE

The Office of Training and Professional Studies
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PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST FOR ALL ALC STUDENTS

I-20 Signature

Sign and date your I-20 in blue ink.

SEVIS Fee

International students applying for an F visa are required to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee (F-1 students are charged \$200). Please pay your SEVIS fee on-line at www.FMJfee.com at least 3 business days prior to your visit at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. When paying your SEVIS fee, you will be asked for the Bloomfield College school code and your individual SEVIS ID code. The Bloomfield College code is NEW214F00279000. Your personal SEVIS ID code is located in the top right-hand corner of your I-20. You will also need your passport, a credit card, and a printer to pay the SEVIS Fee and print your receipt.

Make an Appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate In Your Home Country

Please schedule an appointment at the local U.S. Embassy or Consulate to obtain your F visa. U.S. Embassy contact information can be found at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

For more information regarding expected visa wait times, please visit the link below.
http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php

NOTE: DO NOT enter the U.S. as a B-1 visitor for business, B-2 visitor for pleasure, or B-2 "prospective student" if you intend to be a full-time student at Bloomfield College. You are prohibited from studying in the U.S. under these categories. If you intend to study, you should enter as an F-1 or J-1 student.

Preparation for your Visit to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

You will need to bring the following items to your appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate:

1. Acceptance Letter from Bloomfield College
2. If you have received an Academic or Athletic Scholarship, be sure to bring your Scholarship Award letter from Bloomfield College.
3. I-20
4. Original Financial Evidence: Notarized Affidavit of Support, bank statement, proof of income.
5. I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt
6. A valid Passport

Note: Be sure to present the original documents, not copies.

□ **10 Points to Remember when Interviewing with a U.S. Consular Officer**

1. 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. Note: Do not lie but do not emphasize any ties that you have to family members or friends in the U.S.

2. English- Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview. If you are coming to the United States solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

3. Speak for yourself- Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family. A negative impression is created if you are not prepared to speak on your own behalf. If you are a minor applying for a high school program and need your parents there in case there are questions, for example, about funding, they should wait in the waiting room.

4. Know the program & how it fits into your career plans- If you are not able to articulate the reasons you will study in a particular program in the United States, you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to immigrate. You should also be able to explain how studying in the United States relates to your future professional career when you return home.

5. Be concise- Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute or two of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.

6. Supplemental documentation- It should be clear at a glance to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time, if you're lucky.

7. Not all countries are equal- Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the United States as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study in the United States.

8. Employment- Your main purpose of coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S.

education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program. If your spouse is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be aware that F-2 dependents cannot, under any circumstances, be employed in the United States. If asked, be prepared to address what your spouse intends to do with his or her time while in the United States. Volunteer work and attending school part-time are permitted activities.

9. Dependents remaining at home- DEPENDENTS REMAINING AT HOME. If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence. This can be an especially tricky area if you are the primary source of income for your family. If the consular officer gains the impression that your family members will need you to remit money from the United States in order to support them, your student visa application will almost certainly be denied. If your family does decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful to have them apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

10. Maintain a positive attitude- Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.

Confirmation of Attendance

Please contact your program coordinator by e-mail to confirm the following:

1. Your attendance at Bloomfield College
2. Your intended date of arrival in New Jersey.
3. Your approval or denial of an F-1 visa at the U.S. Embassy.

Tuition & Housing Deposit

ALC Students (Students Studying English):

All ALC students are required to pay a housing placement fee of \$150 if they require campus housing. The ALC office accepts cash, credit cards, checks, money orders, and wire transfers. ALC students that are staying with a host family are required to make a direct payment to their host family for their monthly rent.

Climate

New Jersey has a varied climate of warm summers (July–September) and cold winters (December–March). Be prepared for heat waves, rain, and snow storms by packing appropriate clothing. A warm coat, sweater, hat, scarf, gloves, snow boots, and umbrella are a must.

Purchase a Plane Ticket

Please purchase a plane ticket to Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey, or John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Please note that international students in F status may **not** enter the United States **more than 30 days prior to the start date** indicated on the I-20. If you intend to arrive early, you will be expected to find your own accommodations.

Items to Bring or Purchase Upon Arrival **(For students residing in the residence halls)**

Pillow, sheet-set, blanket, towel, toiletries, alarm clock, umbrella, backpack, notebooks, lamp, laundry bag, detergent.

Entrance to the United States

- Enter the United States no earlier than 30 days before and no later than the start date indicated on your I-20.
- When entering the U.S., you must carry a passport valid at least six months into the future, your F-1 entry visa, your I-20, your acceptance letter, scholarship letter, financial documents, and your SEVIS fee receipt. **DO NOT PACK THESE DOCUMENTS IN YOUR SUITCASE!**
- An Immigration inspector will review your documents, and give you an **I-94 departure record** granting you F-1 student status for duration of status ("F-1 D/S"). This is an important document; please staple it inside your passport.
- **Canadian citizens** do not require a passport or an entry visa to enter the U.S., but must present all of the documents listed above and obtain an I-94 departure record to obtain F-1 student status.
- You are required to attend the institution indicated on your F-1 visa, if you are entering the U.S. for the first time on the basis of that visa.

Getting to Bloomfield College

ALC Students:

Newark Airport is located 12 miles from the Bloomfield College campus. Taxis are available in the baggage claim area. Don't forget to visit an ATM or to change your currency while you're still in the airport. The taxi ride will cost approximately \$35-50 USD.

Some students may prefer to rent a car with a GPS navigation system for their first week here. You must be 25 or older and have a credit card to rent a car in the United States. Car rental agencies are located within the airport. We strongly recommend that you compare prices with several agencies to get the lowest rate. Cars can be rented by the day, for a few days or for several weeks. Prices vary greatly depending on the type of car you rent. Don't forget to make a reservation on-line in advance.

Avis www.Avis.com **Budget** www.Budget.com **Hertz** www.Hertz.com

Bloomfield College: 1-973-748-9000

General Address: 467 Franklin Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

Admission's Office: 1 Park Place (& Liberty Street), Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Residence Life Office: 208 Liberty Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Residence Halls: Clee Hall, 220 Liberty Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Schweitzer Hall, 18-22 Austin Place, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Temporary Accommodations

If you arrive prior your scheduled dorm check-in, you will be required to make your own accommodations at a nearby hotel.

Residence Inn by Marriott

107 Prospect Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052 Ph: 973-669-4700

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ewrog-residence-inn-west-orange/>

3 miles west of Bloomfield College

Wilshire Grand Hotel

350 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052 Ph: 973-731-7007

<http://www.thewilshiregrandhotel.com/>

3.7 miles west of Bloomfield College

Courtyard by Marriott Meadowlands Lyndhurst

1 Polito Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 Ph: 201-896-6666/ 1-888-246-6302

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ewrml-courtyard-lyndhurst-meadowlands/>
4.4 miles east of Bloomfield College.

Resident Hall Check-in

ALC Students (Students Studying English):

Students will go directly to their homestay and Bloomfield College residence hall upon arrival.

Placement Testing

ALC Students (Students Studying English):

ALC placement tests can be completed from home and returned by e-mail prior to arrival in the United States. Placement testing is also available the week before classes begin. ALC students may also register for their placement test in the ALC office during regular business hours.

Registration

ALC Students (Students Studying English):

ALC students can register for classes in the ALC office during regular business hours. ALC students must register prior to the first day of classes.

NOTE: Please remember when registering for classes that International Students must register for a full-time course load to maintain their F or J status.

Paying For College/ Clearing Your Bill

ALC Students (Students Studying English):

Once you have completed the registration form in the ALC office, please make the payment to the program coordinator. You can pay by cash, credit cards, checks, or money orders.

First Day of Classes

ALC Students (Students Studying English):

Monday, April 25, 2011 9:00am~1:00pm

International Student Orientation & Immigration Check-in

MANDATORY FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. This includes: ALC Students (Students Studying English):

Date: To be Announced

Your International Student Advisor is required by law to have copies of your important immigration documents. **Please bring the following items to the International Student Orientation for the Immigration Check-In:**

1. Passport
2. Visa
3. I-94 Card
4. I-20

**It is preferred that students bring copies of their immigration documents to orientation.*

Banking

During the International Student Orientation, we will provide information regarding opening a U.S. bank account for international students. If you intend to open a bank account following items are usually needed.

1. Passport
2. Visa
3. I-20
4. Bloomfield College School ID card.

**Please feel free to use the bank of your choice.*

Cell Phone

During the International Student Orientation, a representative from T-Mobile will be available to discuss cell phone options for international students. If your cell phone from your home country has a GSM – SIM card you may be able to use your cell phone in the U.S. with a new service plan through T-Mobile.

Address, Phone & E-mail Changes

Please report your new address, phone number, and e-mail to your International Student Advisor, program coordinator, and the Office of the Registrar. Your International Student Advisor must obtain your updated contact information to be in compliance with immigration regulations. It is also important that we can reach you in case of an emergency.