



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT JOURNEY

All first-year students entering Baylor have steps that they have to take to be admitted, enrolled, before they can start taking classes. International students across the United States and at Baylor, however, have additional required steps to take before they can enroll and attend classes more than domestic students. The section below will walk through additional steps in the journey that international students need to take to enroll at Baylor University.

Pre-Acceptance Steps

International students must:

1. Apply to Baylor, like all other incoming students, however they may need to translate any educational records into English and have their credentials evaluated for any post-secondary education
2. Show proof of English skills necessary for either their undergraduate or graduate education at Baylor
3. Prove enough financial resources determined by Baylor. As of Fall 2021, this amount was \$71,600. This amount must be in liquid assets

Post-Acceptance but Prior to Orientation Steps

1. Submit the required documents to meet the requirements for ISSS to issue the Form I-20
2. Students must pay a SEVIS fee
3. Schedule and interview at a U.S. Consulate in the home country for the F-1 visa to be able to enter the U.S. to study. The visa appointments usually cost a fee. Below is a minimum list of documents that students will be required to present at the visa interview:
 - a. Unexpired Passport valid for at least 6 months into the future
 - b. Form I-20 issued by ISSS and mailed to student
 - c. Proof of Financial Support
 - i. Students will need to show proof of financial support as shown on their I-20. This may include personal or family bank statements, an affidavit of support, or copies of their fellowship or scholarship letter
 - d. SEVIS Fee Receipt of Payment
4. Students must make plans to travel to the U.S. not more than 30 days before start date on the Form I-20
5. Communicate arrival plans with ISSS Program coordinator if students want to be picked-up from the Waco Regional Airport or bus station
6. Present all the relevant documents listed above upon entry into the U.S. to a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent, who will determine whether the student is eligible for admission into the U.S.

PS: Students could be denied at any step of the process even if they have all the correct and relevant information

Post-Arrival Steps Including Orientation (Global Bears Week)

1. Attend Global Bears Week, which is an orientation program designed for international students. This includes a required Check-in process:
 - a. Getting Baylor ID cards
 - b. Setting up bank accounts
 - c. Attending a mandatory maintaining status question
 - d. Learn about U.S. culture and U.S. academic system

Steps During Their Stay

1. Maintain and enroll in a full-time load of courses (12 credit hours for undergraduates and 9 credit hours for graduates)
2. Apply for reduced course load in limited cases to be permitted to be below full course
3. Limit the number of online courses taken
4. Update information on residence, finances, and travel
5. Apply for social security numbers if they plan to work on-campus
6. Submit application to USCIS for off-campus employment

Steps Prior to and After Graduation

1. Request extensions or shortening to Form I-20 if there are any changes to anticipated graduation dates
2. Decide on next steps:
 - a. If the student chooses to return home, they must make plans to leave the U.S. no later than 60 days after the end of classes
 - b. If the student chooses to remain in the U.S. and seek employment, they must take the following steps:
 - i. Apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) 90 days prior to graduation after meeting with their International Student Advisor
 - ii. Upon receipt of a job and if any changes should occur, students log-on to SEVIS to update employment information, along with justification of how employment is related to their field of study
 - iii. Prior to the expiration of OPT (typically one year after its start) either apply for a STEM extension (if eligible), gain admission to a graduate program, transition to a more permanent visa (available only in limited circumstances) or make plans to leave the U.S. within 60 days of the end of the OPT