



ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE
**INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT GUIDE**



St. Petersburg College

SPC

WELCOME TO ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

At St. Petersburg College, we value the intellectual and cultural diversity international students bring to our campuses. Currently SPC hosts more than 175 students from 60 different countries around the world. We understand that choosing a college is a big decision, and we want to help you make the right one. Browse our International Student Guide, or visit us online for more information.



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WHY CHOOSE SPC?

We hope you will consider choosing SPC as your destination institution in the United States! See why international students choose SPC:

1. DEGREE OPTIONS:

We offer a variety of Associate and Bachelor's degrees along with English language programs with clear pathways for students who want to pursue a degree afterward. Once you have earned your Associate in Arts (A.A.) from SPC, you are guaranteed admission as a junior to one of Florida's public universities or colleges (including SPC!) to pursue certain Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees.



2. AFFORDABILITY:

SPC offers high quality education for a fraction of the cost students may pay elsewhere. Florida has the sixth lowest tuition of all 50 states in the U.S.



3. FULL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

SPC makes international students feel at home! St. Petersburg College is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant students and are experts in supporting international students through academic advising, career counseling, student leadership opportunities and dozens of student clubs and organizations across the college.



4. LOCATION:

SPC is located in the middle of the beautiful Tampa Bay Region which boasts a desirable quality of life with year round sunshine, a unique cultural heritage and a diverse business climate. Top quality museums, restaurants, shopping, and outdoor recreation are available.



GETTING STARTED

The information contained in this packet is a general outline of admissions requirements for international students who are interested in attending our campuses in the U.S. on an F-1 student visa.

If you want to study online from your country, please visit <https://www.spcollege.edu/future-students/admissions/international-students/study-online-outside-us> for more information.

STUDY IN THE U.S. ON AN F-1 VISA

After reading through all of the information in this booklet, please click the link below! Students can submit their admissions documents after their application has been processed. Applications are typically processed within 10 business days and notifications are sent by email.



TO APPLY PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW:

<https://www.spcollege.edu/future-students/admissions/international-students/study-in-us>

APPLICATION DEADLINES

To satisfy immigration and admissions requirements, international students should apply by the priority deadlines listed below:

- Fall (August-December) – June 1
- Spring (January-May) – October 1
- Summer (May-July) – March 1

\$40 APPLICATION FEE



This is a nonrefundable, one-time fee to be paid after your application has been processed. Students will have the option to pay their application fee (in U.S. dollars) in one of the following ways AFTER their application has been processed:

- Pay by credit card over the phone
- Submit check or money order payable to St. Petersburg College
- Submit payment in person to the Business Office at any of our campuses
- Pay online through your Student Portal



CONTACT INFORMATION

InternationalAdmissions@spcollege.edu
+1-727-302-6510

Make an online appointment, click here:

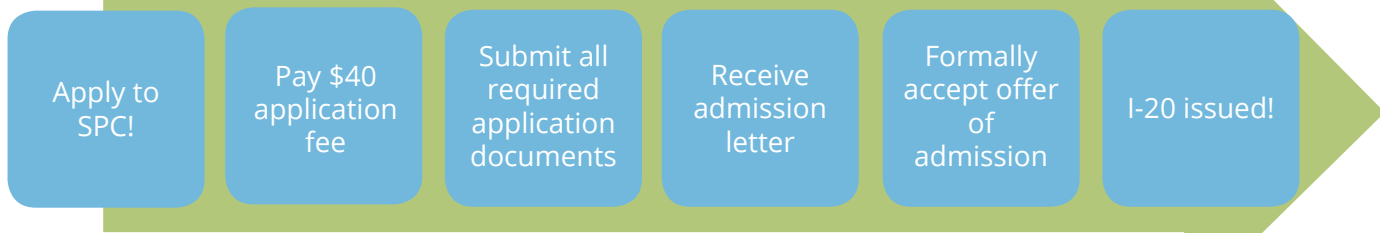
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CenterforInternationalPrograms@spcollegeedu.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>





ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW / CHECKLIST

This is our admissions process at a glance. View the printable checklist below for a step-by-step list of how to apply to SPC.



PRINTABLE ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST



Complete the below items in order:

1. Apply to SPC - <https://webapps.spcollege.edu/survey/18027>
2. Wait for International Admissions to notify you that application has been processed
3. Create password and log in to your student portal
4. Pay application fee (\$40 nonrefundable)

After the above items are completed, the following can be submitted in any order:

Financial and immigration documents:

- Copy of Passport
- Statement of Financial Ability form
- Official bank statement

Degree-seeking applicants must also submit:

- Official transcripts
 - **For institutions OUTSIDE the United States:** Official, sealed (unopened) NACES evaluation of international educational documents - www.naces.org/members
 - **For institutions INSIDE the United States:** Submit official, sealed (unopened) transcripts
- Proof of English proficiency (excludes countries where English is a primary official language)

*Actual documents required may vary from the above depending on student's status and program of interest.

DEGREE AND PROGRAM OPTIONS



Please note that admission to SPC does not guarantee admission to bachelor's degrees or limited access programs which require a separate application process.

These programs do not require English proficiency or transcripts:

- **English for Academic Purposes**
(fall and spring terms only)
If English is not your primary language, our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) classes will bring your skills up to college level so you can succeed in your classes. Learn more at www.spcollege.edu/future-students/degrees-training/communications/communications-classes-and-degrees
- **Intensive English Program**
(fall, spring and summer)
This program is a more intensive program where students spend 22 hours per week engaged in the classroom and active learning, working their way from beginning to advanced levels. While this program does not earn college credit, once you have completed the advanced level, you can be admitted to SPC to pursue an academic degree. Accredited by the Commission of English Language Program Accreditation CEA. Learn more at <https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/community-resources/international-language-institute/intensive-english-program>

Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree takes about two years to complete and is designed to transfer to a bachelor's degree at a Florida public university or SPC. Along with classes to prepare you for your major at the four-year level, you also take at least 36 hours of general education classes.

Once you have earned your A.A. from SPC, you are guaranteed admission as a junior to one of Florida's public universities to pursue certain Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees. In Florida, this is called the 2+2 system, which allows you to pursue a bachelor's degree by first attending a state or community college and then transferring to a four-year institution. At SPC, you take the same general education courses you would take as a freshman and sophomore at a university, **but you get smaller classes and lower tuition costs** - about **50 percent less** than Florida's public universities.

View SPC's A.A. degrees at https://www.spcollege.edu/future-students/degrees-training/program-explorer#categories_545_50

** These programs have pre-entry requirements and a separate application process*

- Biomedical Engineering Technology
- Biotechnology Laboratory Technology
- Building Design and Construction Management
- Dental Hygiene *
- Digital Media
- Engineering Technology
- Environmental Science Technology
- Music Industry and Recording Arts (MIRA)
- Nursing R.N. *
- Orthotics and Prosthetics Technology *
- Paralegal Studies
- Physical Therapist Assistant *
- Radiography *
- Respiratory Care *
- Veterinary Nursing * (fall and spring admission only)

Get full details on each of the Associate in Science degrees listed above at www.spcollege.edu/future-students/degrees-training/program-explorer#categories=545_51

For students who have already completed two years of college/university study and who meet the separate application requirements:

- Paralegal Studies
- Public Policy and Administration
- Biology
- Nursing

Get full details on each of the Bachelor's degrees listed above at https://www.spcollege.edu/future-students/degrees-training/program-explorer#categories_545_52

Earn your bachelor's degree for less money when you earn your associate degree at St. Petersburg College (SPC) and transfer to University of South Florida (USF) or Florida A&M University (FAMU). Collaboration between SPC and FUSE (USF) or IGNITE (FAMU) programs guarantee admission and provide a clear pathway to your bachelor's degree. For more information click links below:



<https://www.spcollege.edu/fuse>



<https://www.spcollege.edu/ignite>



SMALLER
CLASS SIZES



ABOUT

50%

less than Florida's
public universities



FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE FINANCIAL SUPPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Each international student is expected to have sufficient funds to meet all personal and college expenses. St. Petersburg College requires you to have an equivalent yearly stipend (which is an estimate) to cover your anticipated academic and living expenses for a minimum of two terms.

- **Financial requirement 1:**

SPC requires you to complete a Statement of Financial Ability form found at: https://go.spcollege.edu/Central/IA/Forms/AS_Forms/Fillable_Version/AS_549.pdf with the appropriate signatures.

- **Financial requirement 2:**

Documents not in English must be accompanied by a certified English translation. Supporting documentation includes an **official bank statement or bank letter** dated no more than six months prior to the beginning of the semester you apply for. The financial document must be on official bank letterhead and include the account holder name, account type, current available balance for withdrawal and currency (if outside the U.S.). The current available balance for withdrawal must meet or exceed the estimated budget for the program you are applying for as indicated on the Statement of Financial Ability form. Bank letters must include an original signature by a bank official. All documents forwarded are held in strictest confidence.

- Bachelor's degree applicants must show proof of funds equal or greater to **\$26,338 USD***
- Associate degree and English for Academic Purposes applicants must show proof of funds equal or greater to **\$25,405 USD***
- Intensive English Program applicants must show proof of funds equal or greater to **\$24,965 USD***

* * Amount subject to change, please refer to the **Statement of Financial Ability form** located in Financial requirement 1 above.

If you plan to bring a dependent spouse or child on an F-2 status, an additional **\$5,000.00 USD** must be shown per dependent.

Examples of unacceptable documents:

- Investment accounts
- Retirement accounts
- Pay stubs
- Wage summaries
- Employment letters



TRANSCRIPTS



FOR DEGREE-SEEKING APPLICANTS ONLY

Students must have earned a high school diploma (or equivalent) to be degree-seeking at St. Petersburg College (SPC). For students who earned education outside the United States, SPC requires an official (unopened) transcript evaluation by a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). The NACES evaluation is required in place of international transcripts.



HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS:

If your high school is within the United States, request that an official, sealed copy is sent to SPC after graduation.

If your high school is outside the United States*:

- Submit your official educational documents to a current NACES member after graduation – www.naces.org/members
- Request a general (document) evaluation
- The purpose of the evaluation (if asked) must reflect higher education, to study in the U.S. or something similar
- The official (unopened) NACES evaluation must be mailed or dropped off to St. Petersburg College

Electronic evaluations are only accepted from the following companies:

- SpanTran - <https://spanside.secure.force.com/SpantranApplication?Id=41d4a830-ca65-4787-9595-b3511ee3331d>
- Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc - www.ece.org
- Educational Perspectives, nfp - www.edperspective.org
- World Educational Services, Inc. - www.wes.org

*In order to satisfy this degree-seeking requirement, the diploma earned outside the United States must be equivalent to a high school diploma in the United States. The NACES evaluation company will determine this information.

If you attended a college/university, please read below.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS:

If your college/university is within the United States, request that an official, sealed copy is sent to SPC.

If your college/university is outside the United States:

- Submit your official educational documents to a current NACES member – www.naces.org/members
- Request a comprehensive (course-by-course) evaluation
- The purpose of the evaluation (if asked) must reflect higher education, to study in the U.S. or something similar
- The official (unopened) NACES evaluation must be mailed or dropped off to St. Petersburg College

Electronic versions are only accepted from the following companies:

- SpanTran (application for SPC students):
<https://spanside.secure.force.com/SpantranApplication?Id=41d4a830-ca65-4787-9595-b3511ee3331d>
- Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc - www.ece.org
- Educational Perspectives, nfp - www.edperspective.org
- World Educational Services, Inc. - www.wes.org



IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS



Documents must be readable and in good quality. All applicants must submit:

- Copy of valid passport (cannot be expired)

If you are currently in the United States, you will also need to submit:

- Copy of visa
- Copy of I-94 (You can find this form electronically by going to i94.cbp.dhs.gov)
- Copy of I-20 pages 1,2,3 (This is required for students currently on an F-1 or F-2 visa)
- Copy of DS-2019 (This is required for students currently on a J visa status)

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

This is for degree-seeking applicants only. Students who are not proficient in English will first enroll in one of SPC's English language programs.

ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

1. SAT/ACT scores dated within the last two years
 - 24 or higher on reading AND 25 or higher on Writing/Language subtests (SAT Redesign-Concordance)
 - 19 or higher on reading subtest AND 17 or higher on English subtest on Enhanced ACT
2. Applicable transfer coursework from a regionally accredited college/ university in the United States which qualifies you to take ENC 1101 (Composition I) or higher
3. St. Petersburg College's Placement Test
 - Students will be provided testing instructions after paying the application fee (\$40.00); The test is online and free.

UNABLE TO SUBMIT ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS?

If you cannot provide proof of English proficiency during the admissions process, SPC can issue a language training I-20 and you can take our placement tests free of charge upon arrival to the United States. Students whose placement scores meet the proficiency requirements can smoothly transition to a degree-program. If the placement test indicates a need for more language training, you will need to complete one of our English programs before pursuing a degree.



AFTER YOU ARRIVE IN THE U.S.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION



Welcome! Now that you have arrived in the United States, it is important that you know, understand and follow the rules for study as an F-1 student. Check out Study in the States (studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students) resource from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to learn about government rules and important reminders for F-1 students studying in the United States.

St. Petersburg College (SPC) is authorized by federal law to enroll F-1 non-immigrant students. Our knowledgeable staff are here to help you maintain your F-1 status throughout your studies at SPC.

WHEN ARRIVING TO THE UNITED STATES, F-1 STUDENTS MUST:

CHECK-IN

You are required to check-in at the Center for International Programs (Clearwater or St. Petersburg/Gibbs campuses) as soon as possible, no later than the program start date printed on your I-20.

[Center for International Programs contact information](#) located on page 16.

Bring the following items with you for check-in:

- Passport
- Visa
- I-94 (Please print from link here: i94.cbp.dhs.gov)
- I-20
- Current local address and telephone number

CIP will assist you in completing the steps below:

1. Purchase health insurance - Review requirements here: <https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/health-insurance-required-international-students/>
2. See Academic Advisor in order to discuss course placement www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-support-services/advising who will assist in:
 - a. Taking placement test, if not already completed. Please go to www.spcollege.edu/future-students/admissions/testing/college-placement-test for more information on the placement test and opportunities to practice the test: www.spcollege.edu/future-students/admissions/testing
 - b. Creating your My Learning Plan (MLP): www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/academic-resources/online-tools
 - c. Registering for classes - Review tips on how to register for classes here: www.spcollege.edu/future-students/admissions/registration
3. Pay tuition fees: <https://www.spcollege.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-fees>
4. Attend New International Student Orientation: see website for upcoming orientation dates:

<https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/category/international-students/>

REGISTRATION

Each semester before registering for classes, F-1 students must submit the following items to the Center for International Programs:

1. Proof of health insurance
2. Health Insurance, Visit:

<https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/health-insurance-required-international-students/> for details.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advising is available on every campus. Visit www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-support-services/advising to learn more and schedule an appointment with an academic advisor. F-1 students are strongly advised to see an academic advisor every semester prior to registering for classes.

COURSE LOAD

F-1 students must be enrolled full-time:

- 12 credit hours required in Fall and Spring semesters
- 9 credit hours for Summer semester (if required)
- Online course credits:
 - Only 3 online credits may count toward full-time requirement each semester
 - F-1 students in an English language program may not count online courses toward full-time requirement
- F-1 regulations are **not negotiable**. If you are planning to, or already have dropped or withdrawn from a class, contact your International Advisor/Designated School Official (DSO) **immediately**.



MAINTAINING F-1 STATUS

While studying in the United States, it is important to maintain your F-1 student status. Maintaining your status means:

- Fulfilling the purpose for why the U.S. Department of State issued your visa (for example to get a college degree or study English).
- Following the regulations associated with that purpose.

TRAVEL WITH AN F-1 VISA



TRAVELING WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

You may travel freely within the United States during holidays and breaks. Always carry your identification documents.

TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

If you plan to travel outside the United States, contact the Center for International Programs for travel authorization.

Required documents to re-enter the United States:

- I-20 (signed for travel authorization)
- Valid F-1 visa
- Valid passport

You may leave the United States at times when classes are not in session (summer term, spring break and holiday break). Emergency travel needs to be discussed with your International Advisor (DSO).

If you entered the United States with another visa type and changed your status to F-1, you must obtain an F-1 visa from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country before reentering the United States.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your period of stay in the United States. You should contact your Consulate or Embassy in the United States about renewing your passport.

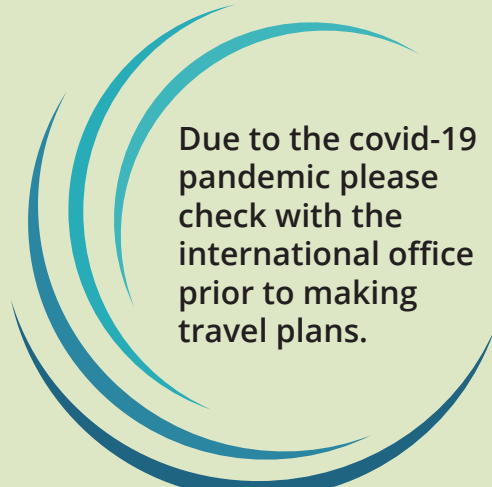
HOLIDAY AND VACATIONS

You may remain in the United States and will be considered to be maintaining lawful F-1 status during holidays and vacation periods observed by SPC. This includes annual summer vacations – if you are eligible. Please check with the Center for International Programs to determine eligibility for summer break. If you plan to leave the U.S. for vacation, check the dates on your I-20 to ensure that it won't expire and it is signed for travel.

ANNUAL SUMMER VACATION

SPC F-1 students may be eligible for annual summer vacation.

- Ask your International Advisor (DSO) if you have any questions about annual summer vacation eligibility.
- F-1 students are not permitted to take annual vacation break during fall or spring semesters.



Due to the covid-19 pandemic please check with the international office prior to making travel plans.

EMPLOYMENT BASICS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Degree-seeking students who maintain F-1 status may apply for on-campus employment. You must contact the Center for International Programs to discuss work authorization before beginning any employment. On-campus employment is specific to work that takes place on campus. Examples of on-campus employment include **working at the college** labs, bookstore, cafeteria, gym, etc.

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Economic Hardship employment is work that takes place outside of a school campus. Off-campus employment is only available to F-1 students who have completed at least one full academic year of their program of study, and who have an economic hardship that qualifies for the **Department of Homeland Security's emergent circumstances**.
www.ice.gov/sevis/employment#wcm-survey-target-id

EMPLOYMENT RELATED TO STUDIES

Practical training is work directly related to your major field of study. Some employment options require USCIS approval as well as recommendation from the Center for International Programs.

- **Curricular Practical Training (CPT)** – An F-1 student may be authorized by their International Advisor (DSO) to participate in a **curricular practical training program** that is an integral part of an established curriculum.
- **Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (Pre-OPT)** – is part-time work before graduation. The use of Pre-completion OPT is deducted from the amount of time allotted for Post-Completion OPT.
- **Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (Post-OPT)** – is full-time work after graduation. You may apply 90 days before graduation or within 60 days following the last date of the semester in which you graduate.

For more information, contact the Center for International Programs. Additional resources:
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>

TAXES

Federal Income Tax

The U.S. government requires a tax return to be filed for all money earned (employment and taxable scholarships). It is recommended that you obtain tax advice from a qualified tax expert.

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/foreign-students-scholars-teachers-researchers-and-exchange-visitors>

Social Security Tax

Please be advised that F1 visa international students are exempt from social security tax.

Please view this site for more information:

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/foreign-student-liability-for-social-security-and-medicare-taxes>

Contact your International Advisor for details. Employment authorization is a complicated procedure that requires a recommendation from your International Advisor.



UPON PROGRAM COMPLETION

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Once you complete your program of study and any authorized period of practical training, F-1 students have a 60-day grace period to:

- Change education level at SPC
- Transfer to a new school
- Depart the United States

CHANGING EDUCATION LEVEL

F-1 students completing English language classes who plan to become degree-seeking:

- Visit the Center for International Programs at the beginning of your final semester of your English language program to discuss the transition
- Updated financial documents may be required and can be found at https://go.spcollege.edu/Central/IA/Forms/AS_Forms/Fillable_Version/AS_549.pdf
- Must have NACES evaluation of high school transcript on file www.naces.org/members
- View F-1 acceptable degree options www.spcollege.edu/degreestraining/program-explorer#categories=50_545

I-20 EXTENSION

The I-20 program date extension is intended for F-1 students who are not able to complete all degree requirements to graduate by the program end date listed on the I-20 Form. I-20 extension requests may be granted for the following reasons:

- Change of Major
- Medical Reason
- Unforeseen Circumstances

Delays caused by academic probation or suspensions are not an acceptable reason for program extension.

I-20 EXTENSION ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

- Request I-20 extension at least 60 days before your current I-20 expiration date
- Extension requests can be granted only if the student is maintaining his/her status and making progress toward completing his/her educational objective
- Student must have continually maintained legal status
- You must submit an academic advising graduation check
- New Financial Support Documents are required
- Contact the Center for International Programs to request a program extension

TALK WITH YOUR DSO FIRST

If you are an F-1 student studying in the United States, your International Advisor (DSO) should be the first person you talk with if you have any questions regarding the legal requirements of your stay in the United States. Your DSO can assist in answering your questions or help you find someone who can help.



F-1 students should speak with their DSO if you are planning to do any of the following:

- Change your major/program
- Change your education level
- Transfer to a new school
- Take a leave of absence
- Travel outside the United States
- Request a program extension
- Withdraw from a class
- Fail a class
- Move to a new address
- Discuss employment options



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship opportunities open to international students. For more information, visit <https://www.spcollege.edu/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships>

- **Florida Linkages** - <https://www.studyflorida.net/linkage-institutions> for more information.
- **Florida Latin American-Caribbean Scholarship** - <https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/lacscholarship/> for more information.
- **SPC Foundation scholarships** - <https://spcollegefoundation.spcollege.edu/scholarships-3/>
- **SPC institutional scholarships** - <https://www.spcollege.edu/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/institutional-scholarships>
- **Private donor scholarships** - <https://www.spcollege.edu/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/private-donor-scholarships>
- **Scholarship searches** - <https://www.spcollege.edu/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/search-for-scholarships>
- **Study in the USA** - studyusa.com/en/a/536/scholarships-for-international-students-planning-to-study-in-the-usa
- **IEFA - International Financial Aid and College Scholarship Search** - www.iefaf.org
- **International Student and Study Abroad Scholarship Search** - www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships
- **eduPASS!** - www.edupass.org/finaid/databases/



HOUSING

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

St. Petersburg College **does not** provide housing. All students must arrange for their own housing. Below are some resources that may be helpful.

The following link may be helpful in finding housing options near our campuses.

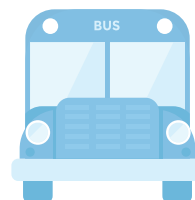
<https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/housing-for-international-students/>



TRANSPORTATION

SPC, students, faculty and staff can enjoy free bus service through the Universal Pass or U-PASS, an agreement between the college and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA). Simply show your current student or staff ID when boarding a PSTA bus and you can ride for free, any time, on all routes, including regular and express routes, shuttles and trolleys. Students must be currently enrolled in one or more credit courses.

<https://mycoursesupport.spcollege.edu/psta-bus-rides-update>



Please keep in mind that St. Petersburg College does not direct the operations of any of the above suggested companies or resources and cannot be held responsible for problems that may occur. This information is provided merely to assist incoming students. St. Petersburg College received no compensation for this service.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply to SPC as an international student?

Details on how to apply to SPC as an international student are covered in the first section of this guide.

Does SPC require proof of English proficiency to apply?

Proof of English proficiency is required for degree-seeking admission. International students who are unable to provide proof of English proficiency during the admissions process may request a language-training I-20 and take SPC's placement test upon arrival. If your English scores are not at college level, you will be referred to one of SPC's English as a Second Language programs: Intensive English Program (IEP) or English for Academic Purposes (EAP). Students scoring below a combined score of 85 on the LOEP are recommended to begin their studies at the IEP program.

Do international students need health insurance?

Yes. Health Insurance is required for International Students. Coverage must begin prior to your enrollment, and you are required to maintain the coverage during the time you are a student. <https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/health-insurance-required-international-students/>

Does SPC offer an intensive English language program?

Yes, the Intensive English Program (IEP) is an ESL program designed to give international students a supportive environment to intensely study academic English while also experiencing American culture. Visit www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/community-resources/international-language-institute/intensive-english-program for details.

How do I use MyCourses to access course information online?

To access your course information, please go to www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/academic-resources/online-tools to access SPC's learning management system.

How do I request an enrollment verification letter?

To request an enrollment verification letter, please login to the MySPC student portal, scroll down to the heading Academic Status and click the "Enrollment Verification" link.

How do I request my official SPC transcript?

You can request your SPC transcript online through MySPC, by mail or by fax. It costs \$5.00 per transcript. View our transcripts page at www.spcollege.edu/future-students/admissions/transcripts for details.

Do I need to get a SPC Photo ID?

Yes. Your SPC photo ID allows you to check out library materials, use our computer labs and work out at our wellness centers. In addition, your ID also gets you into some special and cultural events and enables you to ride the local PSTA bus system for free. <https://mycoursesupport.spcollege.edu/psta-bus-rides-update>

To get your SPC ID, visit <https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-life/student-id>

Can I take classes on any campus?

SPC has 10 campuses/learning centers in Pinellas county. View our locations here: www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/about/locations. F-1 students can take classes at any campus. Intensive English program students will take classes at the Clearwater Campus. Please note: Not all classes are taught at all campuses. Center for International Programs are located on the following campuses:

- Clearwater
- St. Petersburg/Gibbs
- Tarpon Springs

How do I know what classes to take for my English or degree program?

Your placement test will determine the classes for which you are eligible to enroll. An academic advisor can explain your placement test results and help you create an academic plan.

What happens if I don't attend my classes?

Refer to your course syllabus to determine each class attendance policy. If you exceed the acceptable absences, you may be withdrawn from your class. Students who drop below full-time are in violation of F-1 status.

What do I do if I am undecided about degree options?

For a free career assessment and to discuss degree and career options, visit www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-support-services/career-services for a free assessment and to discuss degree and career options

Is there a tuition payment plan?

Yes, visit www.spcollege.edu/financial-aid/other-ways-to-pay-for-college/tuition-payment-plan



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I request the F-1 student visa?

1. Apply and complete admission to SPC
2. Receive Form I-20 (after admission)
3. Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee: www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html
4. Find your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate: www.usembassy.gov/
5. Complete Form DS-160 Online: travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html

Important! Review the U.S. Embassy website for important information about requesting a visa in your country. **EducationUSA** is an excellent resource in-country and can let you know information that may be unique to your U.S. Embassy.

What happens if my passport expires?

Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your period of stay in the United States. You should contact your consulate or embassy in the United States about renewing your passport.

What happens if my visa expires?

As long as you stay in the United States and maintain your F-1 status, you do not need to renew your visa. You will need to renew an expired visa if you plan to depart the United States for any reason and want to return to the United States to continue your program of study. Students may renew their visas at any time, as long as they have maintained student status and their SEVIS records are current. Continuing students may enter the United States at any time before their classes start. Visit travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html to learn more.

What do I do if my passport is lost or stolen?

View Travel.State.Gov for instructions: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/lost-stolen-visas.html>

- Go to the local police station and report your passport lost or stolen
- Report lost or stolen passport to your Embassy
- Report your visa lost or stolen to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad
- Apply for a replacement U.S. visa next time you visit your home country

How do I reprint my I-94?

- Go to i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/ to reprint your I-94.

Helpful Links:

EducationUSA (educationusa.state.gov/) is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Visit studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students to learn more about the process and rules for studying in the United States as an international student.



Center for International Programs Contact Information:

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