



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

### TRADITIONAL STUDENTS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION ON AN F-1 VISA

Bethel University is a four-year Christian college of the arts and sciences affiliated with the Missionary Church. Campus is located in Mishawaka, Indiana, approximately 145 kilometers east of Chicago, Illinois, and is served by the South Bend Regional Airport and Amtrak Train Services. Located in a suburban setting, the campus spans approximately 75 wooded acres. Restaurants, entertainment and shopping venues border the college. The area population is estimated at 300,000. In addition to Bethel University activities, other colleges and universities in the area offer cultural, recreational and academic opportunities.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

All students are welcome to apply online for free. The application for admission will be reviewed by the International Committee only after all the items below have been received by the Admission Office. All students must show the ability to meet financial costs to travel to the United States, complete their education, and return home. Financial assistance, which includes scholarships, will not be awarded until after a student has been accepted to Bethel. Applicants who are not United States citizens or United States permanent residents must submit the following:

- **Application:** <https://connect.betheluniversity.edu/apply/>
- **Official Transcripts:** and/or certificates from all secondary and post-secondary schools. Students must complete the secondary level (equivalent to high school in the United States) prior to beginning classes at Bethel and must submit an official transcript of their courses.
  - All academic transcripts must be submitted in their original language along with official certified translations in English. Official certification and a comprehensive course-by-course evaluation by an approved accredited agency may be required. Bethel University recommends using International Credential Evaluations, [www.incredevals.org](http://www.incredevals.org) or World Education Service, [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org), for transcript translations.
- **Affidavit of Support:** This form is required for the first year of entry to the college and does not need to be renewed each year. The Affidavit of Support is designed to provide financial information to Bethel University so that we may better assess your financial needs. No application for admission will be considered until the Affidavit of Support is received, fully completed, and signed by the student and parent.
- **Official Score Report:** from the SAT, ACT, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and/or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) should be sent directly to Bethel University. **Only one of the tests is required.** Students pursuing college athletics should take an SAT or ACT exam to assist in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) eligibility certification.
  - SAT - Register for the SAT at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
    - Bethel's SAT institutional code: 1079
    - Minimum Proficiency: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 480; Math: 470
  - ACT - Register for the ACT at [act.org](http://act.org)
    - Bethel's ACT institutional code: 1178
    - Minimum Proficiency: English: 17, Math: 17, Reading: 17, Science: 17
  - TOEFL - Register for the TOEFL at [toefl.org](http://toefl.org)
    - Bethel's TOEFL institutional code: 1079
    - Minimum Proficiency: Internet-based exam: 76; Paper-based exam: 540
  - IELTS - Register for the IELTS at [ielts.org](http://ielts.org)
    - Minimum Proficiency band score: 6.5

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS ONLY:** (If you are transferring from a college or university)

- **Application:** see above information
- **Official Transcripts:** see the above information and note the following:
  - Official high school transcript is not required if you have at least 30 transferrable university credit hours with the exception of nursing majors.
  - Official university transcripts from ALL universities or universities attended, regardless of hours completed or reasons for leaving sent directly to Bethel.
- **Affidavit of Support:** see above information
- **Official Score Report:** see the above information and note the following:
  - Official SAT, ACT, TOEFL, or IELTS test scores are not required if you have successfully completed appropriate university-level courses in both Math (0 level or higher) AND English (100 level or higher)
- **Transfer Student Information Form:** If you are transferring from a college or university within the United States, the international advisor at your school must complete the Transfer Student Information Form (*available upon request from the Bethel Admission Office*) and provide a copy of your current I-20.

## **AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT**

### **What is the Affidavit of Support?**

The Affidavit of Support is an application provided by Bethel University and is used to determine a student's eligibility for financial assistance. It utilizes an in-depth needs analysis basing your family's contribution to your college fees on three years of income. This document is required by the U.S. government to show that you are financially capable of attending Bethel University before we can issue your i-20 to make an Embassy appointment. The form is available on the international student information web page. You can also request a copy of the form by emailing [Admissions@BethelUniversity.edu](mailto:Admissions@BethelUniversity.edu).

### **You and/or your parents will need these documents to complete the Affidavit of Support:**

- Tax returns
- Current mortgage information
- Wage statements
- Business and farm records
- Records of untaxed income
- Records of stock, bonds and other investments
- Current bank statements
- Benefits and retirement plan information

### **When should I complete the Affidavit of Support?**

The Affidavit of Support will need to be completed along with the other application materials in order to receive an admission decision.

## **I-20 FORM**

The I-20 form for obtaining an F-1 Student Visa will not be issued to an admitted student until the student has submitted their initial deposit to Bethel University. If the initial balance is not paid, an I-20 will not be issued. All but \$350 of this deposit may be refunded after an I-20 has been issued if a student cancels or has their visa denied before they enroll at Bethel.

## **PROCEDURES FOR VISA APPLICATION**

For incoming international students, Bethel will issue the I-20 form and pay the SEVIS fee from the student's funds. The I-20 and receipt of payment will be mailed to the student. Once those documents have been received, the F-1 student visa application process can begin. Detailed visa application procedures can be found online at <https://travel.state.gov>. Students must complete an online visa application (DS-160) and make an appointment with the US Embassy or Consulate. Students are required to take several pieces of documentation to this interview (valid passport, visa application fee in cash, confirmation sheet of application form DS-160, self-addressed SMART envelope for return of passport, photograph, I-20, fee receipt, and proof of funds). Once the visa has been received, a student can enter the United States no sooner than 30 days prior to the start date listed in the I-20.

## TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDITS

Students must submit official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended. Students transferring course work from institutions outside the United States must have their transcript evaluated by International Credential Evaluations, [www.incredevals.org](http://www.incredevals.org), World Education Service, [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org), or by a Bethel-approved accredited agency. A comprehensive course-by-course evaluation is required. Upon receipt, the Bethel registrar will determine the transfer of credit to Bethel University.

## ESTIMATED COSTS

*Costs shown below are based upon 2024-2025 Fall Semester and Spring Semester only.*

**\*Payment for the fall semester must be paid in full before students can move on campus\***

### First-Time Enrollment Payment

Enrollment Deposit: \$100

Dorm Deposit: \$100

SEVIS Fee: \$350

Medical Fee: \$100

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**Total: \$650**

## Total Estimated Cost 2024-2025 School Year: \$45,640 USD

### Fall Semester 2024

Tuition & Fees: \$17,300

Room and Board: \$5,570

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**Total: \$22,870**

### Spring Semester 2025

Tuition & Fees: \$17,300

Room and Board: \$5,570

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**Total: \$22,870**

## Possible Additional Annual Charges

Athletic Secondary Medical Insurance: \$140 (Fee charged to all athletes for the year)

Estimated Misc. Cost (Books and Supplies): \$1,350 (approximately \$675 each semester)

Transportation, Personal Expenses & Health Insurance\*: up to \$2,460 per year

**Total Possible Additional Charges: \$3,950**

\*Student is required to provide their own health insurance coverage.

*These costs are for a single, undergraduate student enrolled in a traditional academic program. Living expenses for married students will be higher. Extra costs are possible, depending on tuition charges, course registration, class fees, housing and meal plan options, etc. Based on recent trends, students and parents should plan and estimate that the total cost will increase by about 4-6 percent each year.*

## COLLEGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Spring semester 2024: 16 weeks (January – May)  
Summer session 2024: 6 weeks (May – August)  
Fall semester 2024: 16 weeks (August- December)  
Spring semester 2025: 16 weeks (January - May)

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Bethel University financial assistance for international students is limited. Therefore, each student is responsible for finding his/her own source of funds. Seeking sponsorship is highly encouraged, as international student awards vary and apply only to tuition. International students are eligible to receive the following scholarship opportunities if eligible:

**Acceptance Scholarship:** Upon acceptance, students will receive a \$500 scholarship

**Academic/Merit Scholarship:** Range from \$10,000-\$18,000 per year; granted upon acceptance if eligible

**International Student Scholarship:** Vary in amount

**Talent Scholarships: Athletic, music, theatre, and/or art:** Vary in amount

**Church Match Scholarship:** if your church gives a scholarship, Bethel will match it up to \$1,000

Awards may vary based on academic abilities, athletic abilities as assessed by coaches, or music/theatre/art talents as assessed by faculty. Students should connect with someone in their area of interest for additional information. Merit awards and the international student scholarship do not require additional applications.

The International Scholarship Committee awards international student scholarships based on academic achievement, test scores and leadership qualities. Students receiving the award must live on campus and are subject to scholarship rules in place at the time of enrollment.

## CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

International students are permitted to apply for campus jobs, and may do so once at Bethel University. International students are restricted from off-campus employment by the regulations affiliated with their F-1 student visa status and are limited to 20 hours of on-campus employment per week while classes are in session.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

Grading Scale: A: 4.0, B: 3.0, C: 2.0, D: 1.0

In order for undergraduate international students to maintain their F-1 student visa status with the United States government, they must enroll for at least 12 credit hours of classes each semester (fall and spring). Students must maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale to be considered academically qualified to continue studies. A cumulative grade point average below 2.0 is classified as academic probation, and students have one semester to re-establish good academic standing before dismissal from the college and loss of their F-1 student visa status.

## STUDENT LIFE ON CAMPUS

Bethel is an evangelical Christian university and is committed to the highest ethical and spiritual values. All students are required to attend chapel services on campus three times a week during the fall and spring semesters and to abstain from the use of tobacco, illicit drugs, and alcoholic beverages, both on or off campus. Bethel also follows the Biblical precepts regarding sexual purity. Students living in campus housing have curfew hours each day: Sunday - Thursday, 12:30 a.m.; Friday and Saturday, 2 a.m. With a variety of clubs and student organizations, Bethel University offers engaging activities for everyone.

## REGIONAL CLIMATE

Four seasons are experienced each year in northern Indiana. Winter (December - February) is very snowy and cold. The average high in January is 2 degrees Celsius and average annual snowfall is 1.8 meters, so students should be prepared for temperatures of freezing or below. Students should have a very warm coat, boots and gloves for this season, which may be purchased locally as seasons change. The summer months (June - August) bring the average high temperatures up to 25 degrees Celsius. Moderate to cool temperatures and rain are experienced in the spring (March - May) and fall (September - November). The various seasons offer a variety of outdoor activities for Bethel University students.

## TRANSPORTATION

Public forms of transportation are available via airlines, trains, and buses. Intercity bus and taxi service is available near Bethel's campus. Students arriving via air can choose to fly into the South Bend Regional Airport, which is about 13 kilometers from Bethel University, or they can fly into O'Hare or Midway Airports in Chicago.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COORDINATOR

The International Student Coordinator is the person who counsels international students concerning their needs while on campus. Matters such as housing needs, immigration law, visas, OPT/CPT, etc. are handled through the International Student Coordinator. Orientation/Welcome Week is mandatory for all new Bethel students as well as a mandatory international student orientation for all new Bethel international students. This orientation includes information on F-1 rules and regulations, campus employment, a meeting with the Wellness Center staff, and other events designed to help new international students adjust to the regional culture and meet new people. You can contact the International Student Coordinator at [sue.matteson@betheluniversity.edu](mailto:sue.matteson@betheluniversity.edu).

### **Important *Mandatory* Dates to Attend if Starting Spring 2024 (tentative schedule)**

Move-in Day for international students:	January 8 or 9
New Student Registration Day:	January 9
International Student Orientation:	January 10
Classes begin:	January 12

### **Important *Mandatory* Dates to Attend if Starting Fall 2024 (tentative schedule)**

International Student Orientation:	August 15
New Student Registration Day:	August 16
Orientation/Welcome Week:	August 19-21
Classes begin:	August 22

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Accounting, B.A., m
- American Sign Language, m
- Applied Politics, B.A.
- Biblical Languages, m
- Biblical Studies, A.A., m
- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, B.S.
- Biology, B.S., m
- Business, m
- Business Management, B.A., A.A
- Chemistry, B.S., m
- Christian Ministries, B.A., m
  - Biblical Studies Track
  - Children’s Ministries Track
  - Christian Ministries Track
  - Sports Ministries Track
  - TESOL Track
  - Youth Ministries Track
- Church Music, m
- Communication, B.A., m
- Computer Science, B.S., m
- Criminal Justice, B.A., A.A., m
- Deaf Studies, A.A
- Design, m
- Economics, m
- Economics and Finance, B.A.
- Education
  - Art, B.A.
  - Early Childhood, B.A., A.A.
  - Elementary, B.A.
  - English, B.A.
  - Health/Physical Education, B.A.
  - Mathematics, B.S.
  - Music, B.A.
  - Science – Biology, B.S.
  - Science – Chemistry, B.S.
  - Social Studies, B.A.
  - Special Education, m
- Engineering & Management, B.S.
- English, m
- English & Writing, B.A.
- Exercise Science, B.A.
- Family Studies, m
- Financial Services Professional, B.A.
- Graphic Design, B.A.
- History, B.A., m
- Humanities, B.A.
- Intercultural Studies, B.A., m
- International Health, B.S., m
- Leadership, m
- Liberal Studies, B.A., A.A
- Marketing , B.A., m
- Mathematics, B.S., m
- Mathematics/Physics (Engineering 3/2) , B.S.
- Music (General) , B.A., m
- Music Performance, B.A.
  - Voice
  - Piano
  - Instrument
- Musical Theatre, m
- Nursing, ADN, BSN
- Pastoral Ministries, B.A.
- Philosophy, B.A., m
- Physics, m
- Psychology, B.A., m
- Sign Language Interpreting, B.A.
- Sociology, B.A., m
- Spanish, m
- Sport Management, B.A., m
- Sport Studies, B.A.
- Studio Arts, B.A., m
- TESOL, B.A., m
- Theatre Arts , B.A.
- Theatre, m
- Undecided/Exploratory Studies
- Worship Arts, B.A., m
  - Biblical Theology
  - Media Arts
  - Theatre Arts
  - Nashville Contemporary
  - Music Center
- Youth Ministry, m

## Pre-Professional Programs

- Dentistry
- Law
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physician Assistant
- Physical Therapy
- Seminary
- Veterinary Medicine

## Graduate Degrees

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership

**B.A. = Bachelor of Arts**

**B.S. = Bachelor of Science**

**A.A. = Associate of Arts**

**m = minor**