



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. The 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 university. 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.

AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT

- **What is the Affidavit of Support?**
 - The Affidavit of Support is required by the U.S. government to show that you are financially capable of attending Bethel University before your I-20 can be issued 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.
- **When should I complete the Affidavit of Support?**
 - The Affidavit of Support should be completed after acceptance and must be completed before an I-20 can be issued. However, students can submit it before they have received an admission decision.

I-20 FORM

- The I-20 form is issued by Bethel. This form will be used on the visa application and then should be taken to the visa interview appointment.
- The I-20 form for obtaining an F-1 Student Visa will not be issued to an admitted student until Bethel has received the \$650 deposit. All but \$350 of this deposit may be refunded after an I-20 has been issued if a student cancels before May 1 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 deposit funds. The I-20 and receipt of payment (I-901) will be sent to the student electronically. 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:
 - A valid passport
 - Visa application fee in cash
 - Confirmation sheet of application form (DS-160)
 - Some embassies may require a self-addressed SMART envelope for return of passport. **Check your embassy requirements to see if you need this item.**
 - Photograph of yourself
 - I-20 and fee receipt (I-901) from Bethel University
 - Proof of funds (Affidavit of Support, Financial Aid from Bethel, Bank Statements, and/or Sponsor's form and Bank Statements)
- Once the visa has been received, a student can enter the United States no sooner than 30 days before the start date, as listed on the I-20.

ESTIMATED COSTS

- Estimated costs for the academic year can be found on the Tuition & Aid page of Bethel's website, BethelUniversity.edu/admissions-aid/tuition-aid/.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- Fall Semester: 16 weeks (August - December)
- Spring Semester: 16 weeks (January – May)
- Summer Session: 14 weeks (May – August)

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Financial assistance for international students is limited. Each student is responsible for finding their own source of funds. Seeking sponsorship is highly encouraged, as international student awards vary and apply only to tuition. International students may be eligible to receive the following scholarships:

- **Academic/Merit Scholarship:** Range from \$8,000-\$18,000 per year; granted upon acceptance if eligible
 - Based on academic abilities
- **International Student Scholarship:** Vary in amount
 - Based on academic abilities, test scores, and leadership qualities. Students must live on campus and are subject to rules in place at the time of enrollment.
- **Talent Scholarships: Athletic, Music, Theatre, and/or Art:** Vary in amount
 - Based on athletic abilities as assessed by coaches, or music/theatre/art talents as assessed by faculty.

CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

International students are permitted to apply for campus jobs at Bethel University. Students are limited to 20 hours a week of on-campus employment while classes are in session. Off-campus employment is only allowed after the student's first year and as an internship in their field of study (Curricular Practical Training).

ACADEMIC POLICIES

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

- F-1 student students must enroll in at least 12 credit hours of classes each semester (fall and spring).
- F-1 student students must maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- An F-1 student with below a 2.0 cumulative grade point average is put on academic probation and has one semester improve their grade point average or they will lose their F-1 student visa.

STUDENT LIFE ON CAMPUS

- A wide variety of clubs and student organizations are available to all students.
- Bethel is an evangelical Christian university and is committed to high ethical standards, including sexual purity.
 - All students are required to attend the 3 chapel services a week during the semester.
 - All students living on campus have a curfew:
 - Sunday – Thursday of 12:30 a.m.; Friday and Saturday of 2:00 a.m.
 - All students are required to not use or have in their possession on or off campus: tobacco, illicit drugs or alcoholic beverages.

REGIONAL CLIMATE

1. 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. Be prepared to have a warm coat, boots and gloves for this season.
2. Spring (March – May) moderate to cool temperatures and rain are expected.
3. Summer (June – August) warm with the average high temperatures up to 25 degrees Celsius.
4. Fall (September - November) moderate to cool temperatures.

