



Clark Atlanta University New International Students

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **I have been admitted to Clark Atlanta University. When will I receive my I-20?**

After notification of admissions, a designated school official from The Office of International Programs (OIP) contacts students to provide the next steps and required documentation for obtaining the CAU I-20. Students should submit their documentation as soon as possible to the OIP to ensure sufficient time to obtain their student visas.

The information and documentation required for issuance of the CAU I-20 are:

- Completion of the CAU I-20 Request Form
- Financial documentation that shows evidence of sufficient funds to meet the costs for tuition, fees, housing, health insurance, transportation and dependents' care (if applicable). OIP cannot issue the CAU I-20 until financial documentation is received and verified.
- Copies of the students' biographical pages of passports and any accompanying dependents (if applicable).

Once this documentation is received and reviewed in the OIP, the CAU I-20 is generally processed within five (5) business days and shipped or mailed to the address provided on the CAU I-20 Request Form. If requested, the I-20 can be released to a family member or friend. Written authorization from the student is required and a valid photo identification is required from the authorized person receiving the document.

2. **I received my CAU I-20, how do I obtain my student visa?** Included in the CAU I-20 packet is information, regarding the visa application process and the mandatory new International Student Orientation. Students should complete and scan the International Student Orientation form to international@cau.edu. Failure to return the form can cause delays with the CAU enrollment process.

Students should then pay the SEVIS I-901 fee online by going to www.fmjfee.com. It is very important to keep the payment receipt. The payment receipt is required to complete the visa application process and is oftentimes needed during the visa interview. Students who plan to have their spouses or children reside in in the USA with them while they study, should note that their dependents are required to have individual Form I-20s, but they do not have to pay a separate SEVIS I-901 fee to obtain the F-2 visa. They are only required to pay the visa fees.

After payment of the SEVIS fee, the final step is to go to <http://usembassy.gov> to find the nearest US embassy/consulate to schedule a visa appointment.

3. **I am a transfer student from a U.S. School and my F-1 visa is still valid. Am I still required to submit financial documentation?** Yes. All new transfer and initial international students are required to submit financial documentation to verify sufficient funds to meet the cost of attendance at CAU. Transfer students will receive the CAU F-1 Transfer-In Form in their I-20 packets from the OIP. Students should submit a copy of the CAU acceptance letter and the CAU F-1 Transfer-In Form to the Designated School Official (DSO) at their current institution.

The DSO at the current institution will complete the CAU Transfer-In Form and return it to the OIP at CAU. They will subsequently release the SEVIS record on or after the student's last day of attendance at that institution. Once the SEVIS Record is received in the CAU SEVIS Portal, the designated school officials in the OIP will issue the new CAU I-20. Students should note that federal regulations prohibit the issuance of the CAU I-20 for new transfer students until the CAU Transfer-In Form is completed and the SEVIS record transferred by the student's current institution.

4. **When can I enter the U.S. after receiving my visa?** Students may enter the U.S. in "INITIAL" F-1 status (as new international student, *not* a SEVIS transfer student) up to **30 days before** the program start date provided on the I-20.

F-1 students with an I-20: the earliest date to enter the U.S. is printed on the I-20 document.

PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient	EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE 04 DECEMBER 2016
START OF CLASSES 03 JANUARY 2017	PROGRAM START/END DATE 03 JANUARY 2017 - 18 MARCH 2017	

5. **Do I have to attend the New International Student Orientation?** Yes. The New International Student Orientation is mandatory for all new international students. In addition to assisting students with their transition to CAU, the New International Student Orientation provides the designated school officials in the OIP to complete the check-in process required for reporting purposes to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).
6. **Does CAU offer any financial assistance to international students?** Need based financial aid and student loans are offered through the US National Financial Aid Program—FAFSA. International students are not eligible for this program.

However, CAU does offer a limited number of competitive athletic scholarships and graduate assistantships to international students. International students should contact their academic department for information regarding available graduate assistantship opportunities. International students seeking athletic scholarships should contact the coaching staff of the particular sport.

7. **Can I study part-time?** No. International students are required by federal immigration regulations to maintain full-time enrollment. There are limited exceptions to this

requirement. Undergraduate students are required to register for a minimum of 12 semester hours and graduate students are required to register for a minimum of nine semester hours at Clark Atlanta to be considered full-time.