

ARROYO PACIFIC ACADEMY International Student Program

International Student Pre-Arrival Guide 2017 - 2018

This Pre-Arrival Guide contains valuable information to help you prepare for your studies with us in Arcadia, California, so we encourage you to read it carefully. We hope that the following information will help you during your transition to Arroyo Pacific Academy.

The Form I-20 verifies your eligibility for an F-1 Student Visa. We strongly advise you to start your visa process as soon as you receive your I-20 from Arroyo Pacific Academy. Our Admissions Director is here to help you with any question you might have, contact him at admissions@arroyopacific.org.

Visa Information

Student Visas



Once you have provided all required admissions documents, including the Bank Verification Form - The Affidavit of Support with bank statements, and have been admitted to Arroyo Pacific Academy, we will send you Form I-20. Next, you are to pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee. All international students must pay the

I-901 SEVIS Fee. You can pay your fee at FMJFee.com. For more information, view the Form I-901 Fee Payment tutorial <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/i-901-sevis-fee-payment-tutorial>.

You will need to take your financial support documents (bank statements), together with your Letter of Acceptance to the nearest U.S. Consulate to apply for your F-1 student visa. Please contact the U.S. Consulate in your country for further information on visa application requirements, procedures, and the time normally required for processing. Please apply for your student F-1 visa as early as possible. For specific details, visit <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students> the Official website of the Department of Homeland Security.

Entering the United States

Students will not be permitted to enter the United States if you appear at a port of entry sooner than 30 days prior to the program start date on Form I-20, despite having a valid F-1 visa.

At the United States Port of Entry, you will need to show the documents that you presented at the U.S. Consulate to an official of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For specific details, visit <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2014/07/what-to-expect-when-entering-the-united-states>



You are required to attend classes at the school that issued the Form I-20 used for entry into the United States. You **must report to Arroyo Pacific Academy within 15 days** of the Program Start Date for your scheduled Registration appointment as indicated on the Initial Form I-20 issued by Arroyo Pacific Academy.

Requirements

F-1 students must enroll for a full-course of study from September through May to achieve a high school diploma at Arroyo Pacific Academy. Our English Language Development Program may be required in August and/or during the academic year. You may also be required to attend Summer School in June and July.

Resources

<http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/01/what-is-the-form-i-20>

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/student.html>

Los Angeles International Airport

The Los Angeles International Airport is about 38 miles west of Arroyo Pacific Academy. There is a Visitors Center and foreign currency exchange in the International Terminal at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Housing Information

Arroyo Pacific Academy does not offer or provide for residential living accommodations or temporary housing arrangements. Each international student must have housing arrangements secured prior to Registration for the academic year. The parent/guardian is responsible for making residential arrangements for room and board with host families which must be approved by Arroyo Pacific Academy. Host parents must be English speaking to be able to communicate with the faculty and staff. Housing arrangements for room and board are administered only by school approved private outside agencies.

School approved independent companies coordinate and arrange host home and family placements who provide room and board for our international students. The host family provides a student with personal care, and guidance throughout their stay and enrollment at Arroyo Pacific Academy.

Money

It is recommended that you bring enough money with you to cover your first semester's expenses for additional class/school supplies, lunch money, snacks, transportation, personal items and entertainment. A checking account with an ATM card in the student and parent name is to be used for personal expenses.

Health Insurance and Immunizations



Students accepted into Arroyo Pacific Academy must have health insurance and current Immunizations valid in the United States at the time of Registration. Parents are responsible for all costs of medical and dental care, tests, allergy shots, and prescriptions. Due to the high cost of medical care in the U.S., all international students must have adequate medical insurance in case of an emergency. All F-1 students are required to obtain health insurance upon arrival to Arroyo Pacific Academy. We strongly recommend

that when you obtain your insurance please make a copy of your policy and give it to your host parent.

As part of your Registration, you must meet the requirements of the California School Immunization Law and provide the school a copy translated and certified of your Immunization Record. California State law requires that all high school students be immunized against Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and Varicella **BEFORE** registering and arriving for classes. You must bring with you your current and complete Immunization Record, translated by a certified translator.

In the United States, most strong medications require a doctor's prescription. You should bring with you sufficient supplies of medications for any conditions you have as allowed by law.

What to bring to Arcadia in Southern California



Arcadia is a city in Los Angeles County, California that is located about 13 miles (21 km) northeast of downtown Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley, at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. It is the site of the Santa Anita Park racetrack and home to the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden the Westfield Santa Anita Mall is a major shopping center in the city. Each of these attractions are very close to Arroyo Pacific Academy.

In the San Gabriel Valley you will experience hot and sometime humid weather in the summer and cool, dry weather in the winter. You will need appropriate clothing for each season. If you are coming from a country that does not have such a wide range of climatic conditions, you may find it easier to purchase seasonal clothing once you arrive. Reasonably priced clothing can be purchased at locations close to Arroyo Pacific Academy.



Our dress code on campus promotes a focus on learning. We believe that a student's appearance has an impact on his/her attitude and behavior. Students are required to be dressed neatly and appropriately as befits an academic institution. No attire that suggests gang affiliation or exaggerated fashion is allowed. Any ill-fitting jackets, and/or sweatshirts that are too tight, oversized, baggy, too short, or very long are prohibited.

Specific details are in our *School Handbook*, available online at www.arroyopacific.org.

Remember to bring all personal documents including your medical records, proof of insurance, transcripts and academic records translated into English by a certified translator. You may also wish to bring a few items typical of the crafts or handiwork of your country to use as small gifts.