Applying for an F-1 Student Visa:
From Admission to Arrival in the US
Congratulations!

- If you’ve been accepted into one of Garrett’s masters’ level or doctoral programs
  AND
- You are an international student seeking an F-1 student visa to study at Garrett Seminary as an in-person student

Then the following instructions are for you!
Step 1: Make a Financial Plan

• Before you move forward, it’s important to understand that pursuing seminary in the US is an expensive endeavor.

• Please click here to view our: [International Student Budget](#) to determine you and/or your sponsors’ ability to meet these financial needs.

• On sheet 1 “Expenses” you will see an estimate of expenses for 9 months. If you do not plan to bring a spouse and/or children with you to the US, you can delete the amounts listed for spouse and children. If you plan to bring more than one child, you will need to add an additional "child" line item to the expense sheet.
• On sheet 2, “Income” enter the scholarship percentage awarded to you in your admissions letter in the box next to “Enter Scholarship Percentage here.”

• After you add the scholarship percentage, sheet 3 “Summary” will automatically update to show you the remaining amount of funds needed.

• As indicated in your admission packet, you will need to submit a $500 confirmation of enrollment deposit and a large international student deposit of $5500. Once you have submitted both amounts, you can add these to the income sheet. These funds will be available to you once you arrive in the US. The summary sheet will update accordingly.
Make a Financial Plan continued...

• Proof of the remaining balance amount can be shown in the form of personal/family funds or one or multiple sponsors’ funds with bank statements and statements of support. When you add your personal funds, and sponsors’ names and the amounts they will be providing under income, the summary sheet will update accordingly.

• After you’ve added the scholarship percentage, both deposits, personal funds, and funds from sponsors to the income sheet, the summary sheet should indicate $0 or a positive balance next to “Remaining Balance Amount.” When you reach $0 or more that means you have sufficient funds, and you are ready to apply for an I-20 document.
Step 2: Confirm Your Enrollment

- Once you have made a financial plan, you are ready to pay the non-refundable $500 confirmation of enrollment deposit.
- If you have not yet paid the confirmation of enrollment deposit, refer to the Admission packet that was sent to you at the time of your admission.
- Instructions to pay the confirmation of enrollment deposit are available in the Admission packet.
Step 3: Submit Your International Student Large Deposit

- Once you have submitted the confirmation of enrollment deposit, you can submit the refundable international student large deposit ($5500).
- Please view our [wiring instructions](#) to submit the international student large deposit. You can also submit the entire $6000 amount at one time.
- These amounts will be deposited in your student account and will be available to you upon your arrival in the US.
- Please note that if your plans change, the $500 confirmation of enrollment deposit is non-refundable. However, the $5500 deposit can be refunded if necessary.
- Please be in touch with [bursar@garrett.edu](mailto:bursar@garrett.edu) with any questions regarding payment of deposits.
Step 4: Apply for an I-20

- What is an I-20? An I-20 document can be described in this way: “All F and M students that study in the United States need a Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.” Once accepted into a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school, international students will receive a Form I-20 from their designated school official (DSO).” - Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

- Please be in touch with Thehil Russelliah Singh, Director of International Student Recruitment & Engagement and DSO thehil.russelliahSingh@garrett.edu with any questions regarding applying for an I-20.
Apply for an I-20 continued...

• You can start your I-20 application form by clicking on this link: [I-20 Application Form](#)
• Please note that you will need to be signed into your Garrett email to access the form.
• If you are having trouble accessing your Garrett email address, please be in touch with [technology.support@garrett.edu](mailto:technology.support@garrett.edu)
Step 5: Upload Personal Documents

- The I-20 application form will require you to upload copies of personal documents such as:
  - Passports for you and any dependents (spouse and/or children)
  - Transfer-in Form (only for students with an active SEVIS record).
Step 6: Upload Financial Documents

- The I-20 application form will also require you to upload copies of financial documents. Click on the following links to access these forms:
  - [Personalized Budget](#) that you put together at the beginning of this process.
  - [Statements of Support](#) for each of your sponsors
  - [Financial Documents](#) for any personal funds and/or sponsors’ funds.
- Once you have filled in the I-20 Application form and uploaded all the required supporting documents, you are ready to submit your I-20 application!
Step 7: Apply for an F-1 Student Visa

- When you receive your I-20, you are ready to apply for a non-immigrant F-1 student visa which will allow you to study in the US.
- To apply for an F-1 visa you must submit the following:
  - A DS–160 online US visa application form
  - A visa application fee ($185/per attempt)
  - A SEVIS fee ($350/valid for 12 months)
- Once you have submitted these forms and fees, you can schedule an appointment at a US Embassy/Consulate near you.
Step 8: Arrive in the US

- Once your F-1 visa application is approved, you are ready to book flights to Chicago, IL, USA!
- You should plan on arriving at Chicago O’Hare International Airport by **August 15**.
- Let us know of your travel plans as soon as possible, and we will have a greeter at the airport to welcome you and bring you back to campus.
Important Dates to Remember

• **May 15** is the last day to submit deposits, I-20 application, and all supporting documentation.

• **July 31** is the last day to attend a visa interview at your local US embassy/consulate.

• **August 15** is the last day to arrive in the US. This is to ensure that you have sufficient time to adjust to a new context, and participate in international and new student orientations, before the beginning of Fall semester.
Welcome to Garrett!

We are so excited that you chose Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to pursue your theological education. We look forward to welcoming you into our learning community!