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Bienvenido
Welcome

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Benvenuti

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ようこそ

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Culture & Intensive English Program (CIEP)! We are pleased that you have chosen to study with us.

Now that you have been accepted to CIEP, you will need to apply for your student visa and begin to make travel and housing arrangements. In this booklet, you will find the following information:

- Visa Information & Tips (Pages 2-5)
- Housing Information (Page 6-7)
- Next Steps (Page 8-9)

Please review this information carefully and contact the CIEP Office at ciepadmissions@uni.edu or by phone at (319)-273-2182 if you have any questions.

Welcome to UNI CIEP!

Carolina Coronado-Park

Carolina Coronado-Park, Director
UNI Culture & Intensive English Program

UNI

University of Northern Iowa.
Culture & Intensive English Program

Step 1 Apply for your student visa

F-1 or J1 Student Visas

F-1 or J1 Student visas are for individuals who intend to study in the United States. With an F-1 or J1 visa, a spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 may accompany the international student to the U.S. Generally, these dependents may not be employed in the U.S. but may attend school as part-time students.

Visa Application Process

In your admission packet, you will find your I-20 Form, admission letter and SEVIS receipt. Now that you have these forms, you can apply for a visa at the United States Embassy or Consulate closest to your place of residence. To find the Embassy closest to you, visit: www.usembassy.gov.

Visa Interviews

To apply for an F-1 or J1 Student Visa, you will need the following:

- Form I-20 (included in this packet)
- SEVIS I-901 Receipt (<https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html#>)
- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application (http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html)
- A passport (valid for at least six months)
- One (1) 2x2 photograph
- MRV fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee
- UNI CIEP Admission Letter

If possible, it may be a good idea to bring the following items to your interview:

- Transcripts and diplomas
- Scores from standardized tests such as TOEFL, SAT, GRE
- Financial evidence that shows you, or the individuals sponsoring you, have sufficient funds to cover your expenses

During your visa interview, be prepared to answer questions regarding:

- Your major field or purpose of studying
- Your decision to attend UNI CIEP
- Financial plans for paying for your studies
- Your intent to return to your home country after completion of your studies

Immigration Procedures

When you arrive at the airport, show the immigration official your UNI I-20 Form and your passport. The immigration official should stamp your I-20 form and passport and give you a stamped or electronic I-94 Departure Record.

Retaining your F-1 Status

To retain F-1 visa status, a student must attend a full course of study (20 hours per week) in the Culture and Intensive English Program. Students must complete four consecutive CIEP sessions before being allowed to take time off from studying. Failure to be enrolled for a full course of study is considered a violation of the F-1 student status and places the student in a deportable situation.

Employment Opportunities are limited for international students. F-1 students are only allowed to work under specific circumstances. On-campus employment is permitted up to 20 hours per week. However, off-campus employment is limited to internship or other work-study programs that may be required for a specific degree.

Visa Denial Information

If consular officials find you ineligible for a visa:

- Collect all your submitted documentation from the embassy. Consular officials must also give you a written reason for denial.
- If you wish to apply for another session, contact the CIEP Office to request deferring your admission to a later session
- Once you receive your new I-20 form, you may re-apply for your visa.

Additional Visa Resources

US. Department of State Visa Information

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html

Education USA Visa Information for ESL Students

http://www.educationusa.info/5_steps_to_study/esl_step_4_apply_for_your_student_visa.php#top

U.S. Homeland Security Applying for a Visa

<http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/getting-a-visa>

SEVIS Information

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/paying-the-i-901-sevis-fee>

**SEVIS school Code for UNI
OMA214F00208000**

VISA INFORMATION

Visa Application Process

Upon receipt of your I-20 or DS-2019 from the University of Northern Iowa, apply for a visa at the United States Embassy or Consulate closest to your place of residence. For a complete list of requirements and specific information on how to pay the visa fee, visit usembassy.gov. Visas cannot be issued more than 90 days prior to the program start date on your I-20/DS-2019. But don't wait until then. Start gathering necessary documents for your student visa application.

F-1 and J-1 students are required to pay a one-time, non-refundable I-901 SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee prior to the visa appointment. The fee for F-1 students is \$200; it is \$180 for J-1 students. The fee is payable at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website—fmjfee.com.



Items needed during your visa interview:

- I-20 or DS-2019. (Be sure to sign your form)
- Valid passport
- School admission letter
- Completed visa application with required photographs
- I-901 SEVIS fee and visa application receipt
- Financial documents showing how you will pay for your educational and living expenses for at least one year

Be prepared to answer questions concerning:

- Your major field of study
- Your decision to attend UNI
- Sources of money for your studies
- Your intent to return to your home country after completion of your studies in the United States

If consular officers find you ineligible for a visa:

- They must return all documents to you
- They must give you written reasons for the denial
- You may secure additional documentation as needed, and reapply

“Thanks to the organizations and opportunities that UNI has offered, I’ve been able to meet a lot of new people and friends. I have found a new family at UNI.”

Astrid,
Communication Electronic Media
and Leadership Major
San Salvador, El Salvador





HELPFUL RESOURCES

Visa Process for F-1 Visa

- studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students
- travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/student.html
- educationusa.info/pages/students/visa

Visa Process for J-1 Visa

- studyinthestates.dhs.gov/exchange-visitors
- travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/exchange.html
- j1visa.state.gov/participants

Visa Denial Information

- travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/denials.html

For any further questions on your UNI immigration status please contact:

Immigration and Advising Coordinator
International Students and Scholars Office
University of Northern Iowa
Email: international.services@uni.edu

Arriving in the United State

When planning the date of your arrival, please be aware that you are not eligible to enter the United States more than 30 days prior to or after the start date on your I-20/DS-2019. Make sure to carry your immigration documents with you on the plane. Do not check them with your luggage.

United States immigration officials at the port of entry will make the final determination about your admissibility as a student. You will need the following immigration documents to enter into the United States:

- Valid passport
- Valid F or J visa in your passport
- Form I-20 or Form DS-2019

For initial admission, you must:

- Show the immigration official the UNI Form I-20/DS-2019 and your passport
- Attend the school specified on your visa

The immigration official should:

- Examine your Form I-20/DS-2019 and return it to you
- Stamp your passport

Immigration procedures to follow when transferring to UNI from another university in the United States:

If you travel outside the United States before coming to UNI:

- Inform the International Student Adviser at your current school of your intent to transfer to UNI. Your adviser should make the necessary entry into SEVIS.
- Obtain Form I-20 from UNI.
- Be sure that your F-1 visa is valid or obtain a new visa.
- Present your UNI Form I-20 to immigration officials upon reentry to the United States.
- Upon arrival, bring the UNI I-20 and your passport to the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) for immigration check in.

If you come directly to UNI without leaving the United States, bring the UNI I-20 and your passport to the ISSO for immigration check in.

Step 3 Prepare for departure

Prior to your departure

Approximately one month prior to the beginning date of your program, you will receive in your email the "CIEP Pre-Arrival Information." This booklet has very important information concerning the following:

- Arrival Information
- Airport Pickup Information
- How to pay your university bill
- CIEP Mandatory Orientation
- Health Requirements Information
- Tips for studying in the CIEP
- Activities offered in CIEP
- Frequently Asked Questions

If you do not receive this information, you can also view it online at: ciep.uni.edu/student-orientation/orientation-schedule

Travel Plans

If you book your airfare prior to receiving the Pre-Arrival Information, please remember to check your arrival date so you do not miss the orientation program. Once you have booked your airfare, you can complete the CIEP Arrival Information Form found at: <https://internationalengagement.uni.edu/ciep-arrival-form>

Health Requirements

In your admission packet, you will also find a form titled "Immunization Record for International Students." Please complete this form and bring it with you to the Mandatory Health Screening during your CIEP Orientation. Please remember that all proof of vaccinations must be written in English.



	SESSION DATES
Spring 1 2024	<i>January 17 – March 8</i>
Spring 2 2024	<i>March 20 – May 10</i>
Summer 2024	<i>June 11 – August 2</i>
Fall 1 2024	<i>August 27 - October 18</i>
Fall 2 2024	<i>October 23 – December 20</i>
Spring1 2025	<i>January 21 - March 14</i>
Spring2 2025	<i>March 26 - May 16</i>

Culture & Intensive English Program

University of Northern Iowa
Maucker Union 113
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0511

Telephone: 319-273-2182

Fax: 319-273-3333

Email: ciepadmissions@uni.edu

Website: www.uni.edu/ciep

