

International Student APPLICATION CHECKLIST



Congratulations!

You have taken the first step toward a graduate experience at one of the United States' highest ranked universities. We are pleased that you're interested in joining our community of bright, highly-motivated students. Here's a guide to get you through the process.

Step One: Complete Furman [Graduate Studies Application](#)

As an International applicant for Furman University's Graduate Studies, you must complete the Furman [Graduate Studies Application](#), and submit all required documents for the program you are applying for by December 1, for programs starting in summer term, and February 15, for programs starting in fall term.

In addition to the [Graduate Studies Application](#) and required documents, international applicants' have special transcripts requirements, and may need to demonstrate English Proficiency.

- **Official Undergraduate Transcript(s).** Furman accepts official post-secondary transcripts sent directly from the institution. *Transcripts must be in English, [evaluated by a credentialing service](#), and show that a bachelor's degree has been awarded.* The independent evaluation service must send its analysis directly to Furman University and include a course-by-course listing with course grades and the overall grade point average (GPA).
- **Demonstrate English Proficiency.** Furman accepts official TOEFL or IELTS test scores* sent directly from the testing institution that are no more than 2 years old. Non-native speakers of English should have a TOEFL Internet-Based Test (IBT) score of at least 100 (out of 120) with a subtest speaking score greater than 20, or an IELTS score of at least a 7.0.
 - **Exceptions:** International students from countries where English is the official language or those who have received a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution are exempt from providing TOEFL or IELTS scores. [Exempt Countries are listed below](#)

Upon completion of your Furman Graduate Studies application, Furman will review and consider your application for admission. Applications received by December 1, will receive an admissions decision by January 15. Applications received by February 15, will receive an admissions decision by March 31.

Step Two: Pay Enrollment Deposit and U.S. Visa Eligibility Requirements

Upon receipt of your admission acceptance notice from Furman University, you must submit additional items in order for Furman to issue you the [I-20 "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status"](#) required by the [U.S. Student Exchange Visitor Program](#) for your F-1 Student Visa application:

- Accept Furman's offer of admission in the Furman Graduate Studies application portal.
- Pay the \$500 enrollment deposit in the application portal no later than February 15, for summer start programs and May 1, for fall start programs.
 - If the United States denies your visa application, or travel restrictions prohibit you from enrolling, Furman will refund your enrollment deposit upon receipt of documentation.
- Upload your passport to application portal, as well as passports of any of your dependents* who will travel with you to United States.
 - Submit the [International Student Dependent Information](#) form if your spouse and/or children intend to live with you in the United States while you study. You must provide Furman with their information as it is required for the I-20 form that Furman will issue to you for your student visa application.
- Complete and submit the [Confidential Financial Statement](#),* along with a certified bank statement that is no more than 60 days old, on official bank letterhead, and shows that you and/or your support person* have funds available to cover one-year of expenses as a Furman University graduate student. One-year of expenses includes your tuition, fees, books, off-campus housing, transportation, and any other living expenses for yourself and/or your dependents if they will be in the United States.
 - Financial support from parent or guardian requires that they also complete the [Confidential Financial Statement](#), and submit a certified bank statement.
- Begin searching for [off-campus housing](#) in Greenville, South Carolina.

Step Three: Pay SEVIS Fee

Upon receipt of your Furman issued I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” you must pay the mandatory [I-901 SEVIS Fee](#). In order to pay the SEVIS fee, you need Furman’s School Code and SEVIS Identification Number from the I-20 document that Furman sends to you.

Step Four: Apply for U.S. F-1 Student Visa

After paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee and getting a receipt, you must [apply for a visa](#) at any [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) before coming to the United States.

- Make an appointment at the U.S. consulate or embassy.*
- Bring your I-20 form from Furman University, SEVIS receipt, identification documents/passport, and certified bank statement to your appointment with the U.S. consulate or embassy.

*To receive a visa, you must participate in an in-person interview to establish that you meet the requirements under U.S. law to receive the F-1 visa. The consular officer determines if you qualify to receive a visa, and which visa category is appropriate. A visa does not guarantee entrance to the United States; it only permits you to arrive and seek permission to enter the country. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at the U.S. port of entry has the final authority to admit entry into the country. Visit the [U.S. Department of State Visas](#) for information on applying for your F-1 student visa.

Step Five: Prepare for Furman Enrollment and Travel to United States

After receiving your student F-1 visa from the U.S. Department of State, you need to:

- Upload to the Furman application portal a copy of your student visa.
- Prepare to travel to the United States. Learn about the U.S. Department of State [Arrival Procedures for Students or Exchange Visitors](#) entering the United States with F-1 visas, and about U.S. Customs and Border Protection [admissions and entry requirements and restrictions](#).
- Make travel arrangements. The earliest the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will admit a new F-1 international student to the United State is 30 days before your Furman program start date.
- Bring to the United States your passport, I-20 document, certified bank statement, and visa
- Upon arrival in the United States, receive passport stamp granting F-1 status, and obtain and verify online I-94 document.

Step Six: Mandatory Furman Orientation and Document Verification

Furman University requires you to attend a Mandatory International Student Orientation typically held on the day before the start of the term. Furman will provide you with details later. During orientation, you will present your official documents for verification, and learn about regulations governing international students, and navigating Furman campus and Greenville, South Carolina.

Furman requires international students to present the following documents for official verification and copying:

- Your printed I-94 form from U.S. Customs and Border Protection website
- Your official passport
- Your official F-1 Visa

Furman University Graduate Studies Country Exemption for Providing English Proficiency Test Scores

Applicants who are citizens of the following countries are exempt from providing an English proficiency TOEFL or IELTS test score.

Anguilla	Jamaica	South Africa
Antigua and Barbuda	Kenya	Swaziland
Australia	Lesotho	Tanzania
Bahamas	Liberia	Tonga
Barbados	Malawi	Trinidad and Tobago
Belize	Mauritius	Turks and Caicos Islands
Bermuda	Montserrat	Uganda
Botswana	Namibia	United Kingdom
British Virgin Islands	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Canada (except Quebec)	Nigeria	Zambia
Cayman Islands	Papua New Guinea	Zimbabwe
Dominica	St. Kitts and Nevis	
Fiji	St. Lucia	
Gambia	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
Ghana	Seychelles	
Gibraltar	Sierra Leone	
Grenada	Singapore	
Guyana	Solomon Islands	
Ireland		

