



PRE-ARRIVAL ORIENTATION PACKET FOR F-1 STUDENTS

Thank you for choosing **Language On Schools** for your intensive English program. At Language On, our mission is to inspire people to fulfill their personal and professional English language goals in a comfortable, engaging environment. Our experienced and creative teachers use an extensive range of themes and materials to develop the structures of the English language and promote practical language proficiency. At Language On, students learn English, not about English.

All of our intensive English courses are taught by educated and well-qualified English instructors who are dedicated to helping you achieve your language learning goals, and our class sizes are limited to ensure that every student receives individualized attention and gets the chance to fully practice the language skills they learn in their English classes.

We are sending you this pre-arrival orientation packet to help you prepare for your trip to the United States of America and for your language program with us. In this document you will find information and advice on the following topics:

1. Immigration regulations pertaining to F-1 visas
2. Applying for the F-1 visa
3. Travelling to the United States
4. Reporting to school after your arrival
5. What to bring with you on your first day of class
6. Language On school locations and contact information

At Language On, we are committed to helping you achieve your language learning goals. If you have any questions or concerns about the information contained in this packet, please contact the Language On school where you enrolled. We look forward to helping you have an educational and memorable experience with us.

Sincerely,

Richard E. McDorman

**Richard E. McDorman
Chief Academic Officer and PDSO
Language On Schools**

For additional program information, official school policies and other important documents, visit our website at www.languageonschools.com.

Immigration Regulations Pertaining to F-1 (Student) Visas

Only the United States government and its embassies and consulates can provide official information on U.S. visas and should always be consulted when in doubt. Please keep in mind that immigration rules are subject to change at any time without notice. Please refer to official U.S. government websites for current information.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs: <http://travel.state.gov>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Study in the States: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP): <http://www.ice.gov/sevis>

Applying for the F-1 (Student) Visa

Making a visa appointment

Since many U.S. embassies and consulates have different procedures, it is important that you contact the nearest location and ask for the following information:

- How do I apply for an F-1 student visa?
- Will the U.S. consulate send a visa application by mail?
- How much is the visa application fee? What payment methods are accepted?
- What supporting documentation should I bring?

At many locations around the world, lines start forming very early in the morning. If the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy is many hours away from your home, you should try to stay in a nearby hotel the night before. Suits and ties are not required to apply for a student visa. Since you may be waiting in line a long time, be sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.

If you receive the *Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)* in advance of your appointment, you need to bring the completed application to the appointment. Otherwise, make sure to ask for it when you arrive.

Important note: United States embassies and consulates are able to issue your student visa 120 days or fewer in advance of the program start date listed on the I-20. So do not make your appointment too far in advance.

The most important information in order to qualify for a student visa:

The consular officer will determine whether you (the applicant) qualify for the student visa. The *Immigration and Nationality Act* is very specific concerning the requirements that must be met by applicants to qualify for the student visa. Applicants must demonstrate that they properly meet student visa requirements, including but not limited to the following:

- Have a residence abroad, with no immediate intention of abandoning that residence
- Intend to depart from the United States upon completion of the course of study
- Possess sufficient funds to pursue the proposed course of study

At the visa appointment

You should take complete and concise supporting documentation to the appointment. This package supports the information required in the visa application and has great bearing on the final approval or denial of your application. Supporting documents include:

1. The certified Form I-20 issued by Language On
2. SEVIS I-901 Payment Confirmation
3. If applicable, documentation of ties to your home country such as:
 - a. If you or your family owns a business, include letters from the bank describing the business.
 - b. If you or your family own property, include the titles and/or deeds that establish property ownership.
 - c. If you have a sister or brother who has studied in the U.S. and returned home, include a copy of his/her diploma and a statement from his/her employer.
 - d. If you and/or your family have made previous trips to the U.S., present your passports, to prove that you have been abroad and always returned home.
 - e. If you have a job offer in your home country, bring a copy of the proposal letter to prove your intention of returning to your native country once your studies are completed.
4. Original identification documents including:
 - a. Valid passport
 - b. Birth certificate
 - c. International driver license
 - d. Proof of permanent residence outside of the U.S.
 - e. Two recent passport-style photos
5. Educational supporting documents:
 - a. The *Letter of Acceptance* from Language On
 - b. Transcripts and degrees from all educational institutions attended, including high school
 - c. Any school awards, prizes, certificates, letters of recommendation from teachers, or other documentation to show that you excel in your field of study
6. Financial supporting documents:
 - a. You should have all your documentation of financial support well organized if you carefully followed the instructions for the *Language On I-20 Application*.
 - i. Your most recent bank statement (or sponsor's bank statement)
 - ii. Original bank letter (or your sponsor's bank letter)
 - iii. Original, notarized sponsor letter if you will not be supporting yourself
7. Health records:
 - a. These are especially important if you have a condition that needs ongoing treatment: immunization records, medical histories, dental records, prescriptions for glasses and contacts, and other important health documents.

Traveling to the United States

A student visa allows a foreign citizen coming from abroad to travel to the United States port-of entry and request permission to enter the United States. You should be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have authority to permit or deny admission to the United States. Student visitors must have their Student F-1 Visa and Form I-20 in their possession each time they enter the United States.

In advance of travel, you should review important information from the CBP website <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors> about entry requirements as well as information related to restrictions about food, agricultural products, and other travel items.

If you are allowed to enter the U.S., the CBP official will determine the length of your visit on the online Arrival-Departure Record (I-94). To verify immigration status, the record number and other admission information will be available at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home#section>.

Please be aware of the Department of Homeland Security regulation that requires that all initial or beginning students enter the U.S. **30 days or fewer** in advance of the program start date as shown on the Form I-20. Please consider this date carefully when you are making travel plans to the U.S.

All new students need to report to the Language On location where they will be studying on the start date listed on the I-20. If you do not begin studies on the expected date, then this failure to start will be reported to Homeland Security via SEVIS immediately, as required by law.

Reporting to School

Adapting to a new culture and school can be worrisome to many students and language barriers may enhance that feeling. For this reason, a mandatory new student orientation is provided for students who enroll in our intensive English programs (the Language On *English Unlimited* program). The purpose of the orientation is to help each student adjust to the program and the surrounding culture and community as well as to understand important Language On policies and student services, immigration regulations and procedures, and health and safety issues. Additionally, language proficiency testing will take place immediately after your orientation so that students will be placed in the appropriate level.

The orientation will provide you with a copy of the Language On ***Student Handbook*** and a description of the following useful information:

- How best to study
- How to adjust to a foreign culture
- Academic expectations and appropriate student conduct
- Language On's policies and procedures
- Health and safety matters
- Student services
- Immigration regulations for good standing (for F-1 visa holders)
- Accommodation orientation

Please contact the Language On school where you will be studying for more information about your program start date and attending the new student orientation.

What to Bring on Your First Day of School

1. Your Form I-20
2. Health insurance documents (if applicable)
3. The address for where you are staying in the U.S. (house, hotel, apartment, etc.)

Language On Campus Locations and Contact Information

Language On Aventura

18999 Biscayne Blvd.

Suite 105

Aventura, FL 33180

(305) 260-6191

anastasia@languageonschools.com

Language On Miami

1201 Brickell Avenue

Suite 205 (Second Floor)

Miami, Florida 33131

(305) 424-9596

fatima@languageonschools.com

Language On Miami Beach

235 Lincoln Road

Suite 100 (Mezzanine Floor)

Miami Beach, Florida 33139

(305) 532-4903

francisca@languageonschools.com

Language On Kendall

7700 North Kendall Drive

Suite 303

Miami, FL 33156

(786) 800-3469

deia@languageonschools.com

Language On Orlando

2448 Sand Lake Road

Orlando, Florida 32809

(407) 442-1278

cecilia@languageonschools.com

Language On Boca Raton

7601 N. Federal Highway

Suite 225B

Boca Raton, Florida 33487

(561) 325-8342

denis@languageonschools.com

Language On Salt Lake City

602 East 300 South

Salt Lake City, UT 84102

(385) 500-4333

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