



TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATION

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST**

1. Complete Admissions Application- [www.tcl.edu/apply](http://www.tcl.edu/apply)
2. Provide proof of English proficiency-TOEFL scores if English is not student's native language (61 electronic / 500 paper)
3. Evaluations of international transcripts or diplomas
  - a. High School Transcript and Diploma or Test Scores
  - b. College Transcripts
4. Completion of the Accuplacer Placement Test (If student does not have Transfer Credits)
5. Evidence of Financial Support
  - a. Certified or notarized bank letter on official bank stationery dated within the last 3 months or an official bank statement.
  - b. Affidavit of Support
6. Verify Medical Insurance
7. Transfer Eligibility Form (If applicable)
8. Tuition Deposit
9. Submit all forms to TCL International Student Advisor's
  - a. Ali Cadmus-New River (Bluffton) Campus DSO
  - b. Allison Canning-PDSO

\*\*Due to the amount of time required for gathering, preparing, and processing the immigration paperwork, TCL encourages all international applicants to apply at least **one semester prior to the desired start date.**\*\*

Dear International Student:

Thank you for your interest in attending The Technical College of the Lowcountry. The Admissions Office is pleased you are requesting more information on the International Student process. You can also visit our website at [www.tcl.edu](http://www.tcl.edu).

International Students may choose from the following programs:

- Associate of Arts
- Arts, Humanities, Social Science
- Early Childhood, Elementary, Special Ed.
- General Education and Business
- Associate in Science
- Associate in Science and Math
- Business Administration

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1. **Admissions Application-** Submit a completed application at [www.tcl.edu/apply](http://www.tcl.edu/apply). Please enter all zero's for the Social Security Number.
2. **Copy of Current Passport-** Valid for at least 6 months. Passport must always be kept current.
3. **English Proficiency-** If English is not your native language, you must provide proof of English proficiency with either of the three options below:
  - a. Submit qualifying English Language test reports (TOEFL). Scores valid two years from test date.
    - i. TOEFL score 61 or higher Internet version (score of 15 in each section) or 500 paper version (score 50 in each section). Visit [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) to schedule in your area.
4. **Proof of High School-** Provide documentation certifying that you have successfully completed a secondary education program equal to a U.S. high school diploma. Documentation must be evaluated by SpanTran ([SpanTran Application \(force.com\)](http://SpanTranApplication(force.com))), Global Credential Evaluators, Inc. ([www.gceus.com](http://www.gceus.com)), or World Educational Services ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)). College coursework taken overseas must also be evaluated with the above agencies to be considered for credit.
5. **If you are transferring from another US College or University-** Submit 1) official college transcripts, 2) copy of I-20 from previous college, 3) 'Transfer Eligibility Form' completed by International Advisor at school.
6. **Completion of the Accuplacer Placement Test-** Please call the testing center at 843-470-8400 to make an appointment to test. This is required if you do not have TOEFL or Transfer credits.
7. **Financial Support-** Submit the completed Affidavit of Support and Certification, and present official documentation of financial support in the amount of **\$25,525.00** US Dollars.
8. **Medical Insurance-** U.S. Medical costs are very high. You will be required at all times to carry valid medical insurance. Verification of coverage to being on our college start date must be provided by prior to acceptance.

- 9. Two semester tuition deposit-** Once all necessary documents are submitted, you will be required to make a deposit of **\$12,260** U.S. (cost of 2 semesters-subject to change) payable to The Technical College of the Lowcountry. This deposit can be used for your first semester tuition with the remaining amount held in your student account and applied to your last semester. Any remaining balance is fully refundable. If for any reason you are not able to attend, or transfer before using deposit, it will be fully refunded.

### **Submitting International Student Paperwork to the Technical College of the Lowcountry:**

All documents must be originals, mailed or turned in together and addressed to the **International Student Advisor at PO Box 1288, Beaufort, SC 29902**. Once all documents are received, a decision will be made as to whether or not this institution can assist you in continuing your education in the United States. We suggest you make copies of all documents you send to the Technical College of the Lowcountry.

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#### Admissions Deadlines for International Students

- Students applying for the Fall semester must submit all documentation by April 1.
- Students applying for the Spring semester must submit all documentation by September 1.

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### **When all admissions requirements have been completed, a form I-20 will be issued to you.**

After receiving the I-20, the student will need to pay the **\$350** SEVIS fee directly to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for the I-901. A student who has paid the fee once will not need to pay it again. Go to [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) to pay the fee. Be sure to print our receipt!

### **Housing and Transportation**

The Technical College of the Lowcountry does not provide housing or transportation. You will be responsible for providing your own transportation to and from college. There is only limited public transportation in the area. You may wish to purchase a second-hand car for personal transportation. If you purchase a car, you will be required to purchase auto insurance. Premiums range from \$500.00 - \$1,200.00. Some students purchase bicycles or mopeds instead of a car if living close to the college.

**Requirements for Maintaining Student (F-1) Status**

As a student attending a U.S. college on an F1 visa, the Citizenship and Immigration Services of the United States stipulates that you abide by the following regulations in order to maintain your legal visa status:

1. You must have a passport that is kept valid and current at all times.
2. Continue to carry a full course of study. You must be enrolled in 12 credit hours for the entire semester. Only one distance learning/online course (3 credit hrs) may be applied to the minimum 12 credit hours required.
3. Unauthorized employment is considered a violation of status by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
4. Immediately report any address changes to the Designated School Official (DSO), so it can be updated with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
5. You must enroll in the courses scheduled by your Academic Advisor and only in your program of study.
6. Attend the school that you were authorized to attend. When you enter the U.S. using the I-20 of one school and attempt to attend another, you are committing an unlawful act and are in violation of your visa status.
7. Depart the U.S. by the anticipated completion date shown on Form I-20 (no more than 60 days after graduating from your program), or apply to the DSO for a program extension. School transfer process must be started prior to end of current program.

## Estimate of Student Expenses for One Year

### Academic Expenses

This budget represents expenses for one, year based upon Two Semesters of Full-Time Study (24 credit hours). Summer attendance is not required, but in order to complete a 64 credit hour program in two years, a student would need to take 30 credit hours per year.

Tuition-Fall/Spring Semester-24 credit hours	\$11,020.00
(Tuition includes \$4/CR capital fee, \$4/CR technology fee, and \$50/semester registration fee)	
Books	\$ 1,240.00
<b>Total Estimated Education Cost Per Year</b>	<b>\$12,260</b>

### Living Expenses

Rent-9 months	\$6,600.00
Personal	\$2,385.00
Transportation	\$4,280.00
<b>Total Estimated Living Expenses Per Year</b>	<b>\$13,265.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,525.00</b>

**AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT**

Please indicate the source and amount of funds available for your first academic year in U.S. Dollars (minimum of \$25,525.00).

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **PERSONAL FUNDS**-submit an original bank statement or similar documents.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **SCHOLARSHIP**-If you have a scholarship or financial support from an organization, we need a Letter of Financial amount addressed to the Technical College of the Lowcountry. The letter must state the period of coverage.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **FAMILY OR OTHER SUPPORT**-Provide the following statement signed by the person who is responsible for your expenses while you are at the Technical College of the Lowcountry.

This is to certify that the supplied information is true and accurate. The funds must be made available and provided as specified.

Signature of person supplying financial funds:\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of person supplying financial funds:\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Sponsor to Applicant:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

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**MUST BE COMPLETED BY A BANK OFFICIAL**

In compliance with the request of our depositor, we state that on the close of business day (date)\_\_\_ / \_\_\_/20\_\_\_, the deposit balance to the credit of the above-named individual as shown in our records is currently the following amount in U.S. dollars \$ \_\_\_\_\_. This account was opened on the following date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_. To the best of our knowledge of the banking laws of this country, these funds may be sent to your college to support the educational needs of the above-named student in the United States.

Signature of Bank Official \_\_\_\_\_

Place Bank Seal here

Bank Official Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





### CERTIFICATION

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the total amount of money that I have available for my first academic year of study at the Technical College of the Lowcountry, SC is \$25,525.00 U.S., and that the total amount available for each subsequent year of study amounts to \$6,130.00 U.S. **I WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MY IMMEDIATE EXPENSES UPON ARRIVAL.** Further, I certify that the above information provided is correct and complete and that I shall not require additional financial assistance from The Technical College of the Lowcountry.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Again, you are reminded that an I-20 form will not be issued until you have completed all admissions requirements. Failure to complete the Admissions paperwork will result in all paperwork being returned to you for completion and resubmission to the Admission Office.**

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### Student Information Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Country Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (including country code, if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



## CHANGE OF STATUS

Students who need change-of-status or adjustment or immigration status to comply with government regulations should contact International Services for Advisement. The office can assist the student with the change-of-status process and/or issue documents that enable the student to apply for a student visa.

### OBTAINING A STUDENT VISA

1. Obtain Form I-20 and a letter of acceptance from the school.
2. Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee. Currently the SEVIS fee to obtain an F, M, or J visa is \$350. Payment must be paid prior to the visa appointment with the U.S. Embassy. For payment options and further information, visit:  
<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/index/htm>  
Students are required to take a copy of the SEVIS fee payment receipt (showing proof of payment) to the visa interview.
3. Find the U.S. Embassy closest to your home at:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/abroad\\_embassies.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/abroad_embassies.html)  
Check the consular site to see if there are any special instructions for the consulate you will be visiting.
4. Make an appointment with the embassy for the visa interview.

**Arrival Information:** At the port-of-entry to the U.S., the student will be interviewed again and the Arrival/Departure Form I-94 will be issued. The earliest date of entry into the U.S. allowed is typically 30 days prior to the start date on your Form I-20. The student will not be allowed entry into the U.S. beyond the start date. The student is required to notify the International Services Office of arrival and make an appointment to complete U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service requirements. An international student orientation will be provided before the term begins.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** Technical College of the Lowcountry will NOT accept faxed or photocopies as official documents.

#### Accreditation

Technical College of the Lowcountry is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award associate degrees.

#### Statement of Nondiscrimination

The Technical College of the Lowcountry is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all qualified applicants for admissions or employment without regard to race, gender, national origin, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, disability, or political affiliation or belief.



TRANSFER CLEARANCE FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT:

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my present school to release the information requested on this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR:

- Is this student currently attending the school last authorized by BCI?  Yes or  No  
 Student did not report to this school.  
 Student reported to this school, but did not complete registration or attend classes.  
 Student is currently enrolled in a full-time program, and has been enrolled since \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student did not complete the course of study. His/her last day of attendance was \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student is in reinstatement or change of status proceedings, the SRC number (if known) is \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Has this student had any financial problems with your institution? If yes, please explain on the reverse side.  Yes or  No

3. To the best of your knowledge, is this student "in status" with BCIS? If no, please explain on the reverse side.  Yes or  No

4. SEVIS ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer Clearance Date \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of School DSO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECKLIST

- Completed Application-[ww.tcl.edu/apply](http://ww.tcl.edu/apply)
- Copy of passport (valid for at least 6 months)
- Proof of English Proficiency
- Documentation of high school graduation ([wes.org](http://wes.org) or [Jsilny.com](http://Jsilny.com))
- Documentation of College Transcript(s) if applicable
- Affidavit of Support (Financial Support)
- Certification Page
- Home Country Address
- Verification of Valid Medical Insurance
- **\$12,260.00** deposit (to be applied to first and last semesters)
- If transferring, copy of I-20 from current College/University
- If transferring, Transfer Eligibility Form signed by current School Official
- **\$350.00** SEVIS fee paid after student receives their I-20 (I-901)
- After arrival, print a copy of your I-94

**Mail all of your documents to the address below:**

Technical College of the Lowcountry  
Attention: International Student Admissions  
PO Box 1288  
Beaufort, SC 29901