

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECK LIST

1. **Apply for admission**
  - a. Complete and submit application for admission
  - b. Include \$30.00 check or money order made payable to Essex County College. This is a non-refundable application fee. (APPLICATION FEE MUST BE IN UNITED STATES DOLLARS DRAWN ON A UNITED STATES BANK)- **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, application fee for Fall 2020 admission will be WAIVED.**
  - c. Include proof of high school graduation. Please refer to attachment “**Academic Credential Services**” regarding evaluation of foreign country high school diploma and /or transcript requirements.
2. **Take “Test of English Proficiency” if needed**

Essex County College requires a minimum English Proficiency. Applicant who have completed secondary education from an institution where English is not the official language of instruction will be required to submit proof of English proficiency for admission as an F1 status student. TOEFL or IELTS scores are accepted, SAT, ACT or Accuplacer test results:

  - a. TOEFL-<http://www.ets.org/toefl> -TOEFL Code #2237
  - b. IELTS-<https://www.ielts.org/>
  - c. SAT- <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
  - d. ACT-<https://www.act.org/>
  - e. Accuplacer Test (Please request your score to be sent to our testing center = [testingcenter@essex.edu](mailto:testingcenter@essex.edu))
3. **Apply for Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant (F-1) Student Status (Form I-20)**
  - a. Complete and submit application for Form I-20
  - b. Attach notarized affidavit of annual financial support with required evidence
  - c. Attach notarized affidavit of free room and board with required evidence (if applicable)
4. **Apply for your passport as soon as possible**
  - a. Apply for passport from your home country
  - b. Apply for F-1 visa at U.S. Embassy or consulate
    - i. Follow the rules for applying for F-1 full time student visa included with your Form I-20 from Essex County College
    - ii. Pay **SEVIS I-901 fee\*\***. You can schedule an interview before you make the SEVIS I-901 fee payment. You can fill in the Form I-901 online at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
5. **Upon receipt of your passport and F-1 full time student visa**
  - a. Make travel arrangements to U.S. You will be prohibited from entering the U.S. after the last date indicated on Form I-20.
  - b. Make living arrangements in the U.S. (**Please note that Essex County College has no on-campus housing.**)
  - c. Carry adequate currency to help you survive your first three months in the U.S.

### **\*\*What is the primary purpose of the SEVIS I-901 fee?**

- a. The SEVIS I-901 fee is mandated by Congress to support the program office and the automated system that keeps track of students and exchange visitors and ensures that they maintain their status while in the United States. Each student or exchange visitor issued an initial Form I-20 on or after October 27, 2008, is responsible for paying this fee to SEVP.
- b. **Effective July 31, 2013, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will no longer mail I-797C receipts. The payment confirmation that can be printed from the FMJFEE website ([www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)) will replace the I-797C mailed receipt. The payment confirmation can be printed anytime by clicking on the "Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation" button below. After entering your SEVIS ID, Last Name, and Date of Birth you will be able to print your payment confirmation.**
- c. For more information about Form I-901 please visit: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901>