

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Catholic Church has always made every effort to welcome all nationalities into her community of faith. In order to further this effort, the Diocese of Arlington will endeavor to remain certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to admit F-1 (Non-Immigrant) students. The F-1 (Non-Immigrant) student status applies to those aliens who are in the United States for the purpose of attending school. The Diocese provides the following policies for enrolling international students:

1. International students who apply for admission to a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school will be considered for admission, if all the following is satisfactorily demonstrated:
 - a. Student must meet Diocesan admission requirements as stated in Policy 601.2;
 - b. Student currently holds or is in the process of obtaining an F-1 (Non-Immigrant) student visa;
 - c. The student's guardian cannot have guardianship of more than two international students;
 - d. The student's U.S. address must be the same as the guardian's address;
 - e. Must have their tuition paid in full upon school admission;
 - i. There is no refund given for registration, tuition or other related fees;
2. For students who hold a visa other than F-1, refer to Appendix AH (Nonimmigrants Who Can Study)
3. Once a student is determined to meet the requirements for school admission, the parent or guardian must complete the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form and return the form to the school the student will be attending. The Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form must be returned to the Office of Catholic Schools with the original signature of principal or admissions director.

The I-20 is a government form that tells the U.S. government that

1. *the international applicant is or expects to be a "bona fide" student;*
2. *the applicant meets schools' admissions requirements;*
3. *the applicant will pursue a full course of study;*
4. *the applicant's parent or guardian demonstrates financial stability to ensure the applicant can study and live in the U.S.*

This form will potentially allow the student to obtain an F-1 (Non-Immigrant) student visa and subsequently allow them to enter the U.S. and travel while they are enrolled full-time in an academic program in a SEVIS-approved school.

- a. When a student is transferring *from* another school outside the Diocese, the originating school must transfer the existing I-20 in ***active*** status to the Diocese of Arlington. A Diocese of Arlington International Student Transfer Report must be completed by the originating school and returned to the Office of Catholic Schools along with the I-20 Application Form. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to contact the originating school within **15** days of leaving that school to have the I-20 transferred.
 - b. When a student is transferring *to* a non-Diocese of Arlington school, the Diocese of Arlington must transfer the existing I-20 in ***active*** status to the new school. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to contact the Office of Catholic Schools within **15** days of leaving the Diocesan school to have the I-20 transferred.
5. International students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation they are free from communicable tuberculosis (*per Policy 624.2 of the Office of Catholic Schools Policies and Guidelines*).
 6. International students who currently hold a B-1 or B-2 (Visitor) visa ***may not*** attend school even while in process of changing their status to F-1 (Non-Immigrant) student;
 - a. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to inform the school of the processing of any pending change in status of any international student who has been accepted to the school in order to keep their I-20 status current.
 7. Any student applicant whose passport, United Nations travel document, or other Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) documents indicate that the student is a refugee, asylee, parolee, lawful non-immigrant¹, or permanent resident, may be admitted to the schools of the Diocese of Arlington under normal requirements for admission. This policy would also include undocumented children.

School Administrators must inform the Office of Catholic Schools (via Appendix AH: Status of F-1 Non-Immigrant Students report) when/if an international student:

- arrives in the U.S. (initial entry into the U.S.)
- does not arrive after an I-20 has been issued
- drops below full-time attendance or otherwise does not follow his or her academic program satisfactorily
- is about to graduate
- is transferring to a new school
- has left the country for longer than 2 months
- requires an extension to their program to successfully complete it

¹ See 'Nonimmigrants: Who Can Study?' (Appendix AJ) for a listing of lawful non-immigrants who may attend school.