Federal visa law requires official evidence of enough money to pay all educational and living expenses for at least one academic year before an I-20 or a DS-2019 can be issued.

**Requirements**

**Financial documentation must:**
- Be printed on professional letterhead stationery or contain the bank’s official stamp or seal
- Be signed in ink by a bank official
- State the type of currency
- State the specific amount that is currently available in the account or state the amount of funds on deposit
- Be original documents - You may submit a notarized copy of a bank statement containing the above details which certifies that it is a true copy from the original. We will only give consideration to electronic documents if they are sent to us directly by the financial institution.

**Additional Details**
- At the time an I-20/DS-2019 is issued, bank letters and affidavits of support cannot be more than six months old.
- Students may have more than one guarantor or source of funding. Guarantors may be parents, grandparents, other relatives, or friends. If you have a scholarship, subtract the amount of the scholarship from the total amount required to determine the amount you must document.
- If documented funds are not in the student’s name, the guarantor must complete the affidavit of support on the International Student Financial Source Form. If personal/family funds are insufficient and business funds must be documented, the business must provide a letter stating that the business funds will be used to provide support for the student’s educational and living expenses in addition to the affidavit of support being signed.
- Documentation which is not written in English, must be officially translated. Submit both the original and the translation.
- Your bank representative can use the sample financial statement as a guide for writing a letter to document funds.
- You may submit documents for review by sending them via email to Tanya Brakhage. Please cover the account number, if included, and wait for an email response before sending the originals in case changes need to be made.
- Financial documentation is not returned. Ask for two originals of all financial documents. Send one set to us and keep the other to take to your visa appointment and/or to present to Customs and Border Protection when entering the U.S.

**Funds to be Documented for Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of Study</th>
<th>Funds* to be Documented by F-1 Visa Students (see footnote 1)</th>
<th>Funds* to be Documented by J-1 Exchange Students (see footnote 4)</th>
<th>Document additional funds for each dependent (spouse or child) needing F-2 or J-2 visa status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate (12 credit hours)</td>
<td>$34,425</td>
<td>$8,967 - 1 semester / $16,735 - 2 semesters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate with Diversity Waiver</td>
<td>$23,380 (see footnote 5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (9 credit hours)</td>
<td>$39,816 (see footnote 2)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate with Diversity Waiver</td>
<td>$24,167 (see footnote 5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate with Graduate Assistantship</td>
<td>$18,984 (see footnote 6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All of the amounts listed are in US dollars.

Current financial documentation is required in all these situations:
- To apply for a visa (F-1 student or J-1 (exchange visitor))
- To transfer your visa status from another school in the U.S. (see footnote 3)
- To change the level of study at Georgia Southern (e.g. from undergraduate to graduate studies) (see footnote 3)
- To request additional time on your I-20 or DS-2019. Please note that additional time cannot be granted due to poor academic performance.

Footnotes:
1. Tuition and fees are charged per credit hour for up to 15 credit hours. Students enrolling in more than 15 credit hours will be charged the 15 credit hour rate.
2. Certain graduate programs/classes have additional fees - up to $2,500 per year. If you are applying for a graduate degree, see Professional Programs to find out if you will have additional tuition to pay and must document additional funds. If you are hired as a graduate assistant (GA), ask the hiring department to send an email to Tanya Brakhage stating the hiring term and the amount of your GA stipend so the amount you will need to document will be reduced. For information on assistantships, visit the College of Graduate Studies website.
3. F-1 students have a 60-day grace period following graduation or ending OPT employment. Before the grace period ends, F-1 students changing schools must be fully admitted and their SEVIS records must be transferred. Similarly, Georgia Southern students graduating or completing OPT must be fully admitted and have a new I-20 issued. Failure to submit application and I-20 requirements early enough may necessitate departure from the U.S. or result in a violation of visa status.
4. Georgia Southern University exchange agreements require students to pay applicable tuition and fees to their home universities. Therefore, exchange students coming to Georgia Southern must document funds to cover mainly living expenses and health insurance.
5. Information regarding the International Diversity Scholarship can be found on the university’s website.
6. Subtract your stipend for 2 semesters from this amount to determine the amount you must document (example for $5,000 stipend: $18,984 - $10,000 = $8,984 must be documented). The amount of your stipend will be provided by your hiring department.