

Georgia Southern University
Center for International Studies
SEVIS Financial Documentation Requirements

Visa laws require official documentation 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. (J-1 students participating in a one-semester program may document funds for just one semester.) Please read this information carefully. You can submit documents for *review* by sending them by fax (912-681-0824) or E-mail (tgrubbs@georgiasouthern.edu). If you fax or E-mail your documents, *please wait* for an E-mail message before sending the originals in case changes need to be made.

Financial documents must either:

- be written on professionally printed *letterhead stationery*, and
- be *signed in ink* by a bank official (Computer generated “signatures” will not be accepted.), and
- state the *type* of currency, and
- state the specific *amount* that is **currently** in the account or that the funds on deposit are greater than \$26,000 U.S. dollars, and
- be the student’s funds or the account holder must complete the guarantor section of the SEVIS Data Form or submit a notarized affidavit of support.
- (See sample statement on next page.)

or

- be a *notarized* copy of a bank statement, and
- be the student’s funds or the account holder must submit a notarized affidavit of support.

All documents must be written in English. If documents are not available in English, the original must be submitted along with an official translation. If you are sending documentation of other types of funds (i.e. student loans, scholarships, employment letters, etc.), please fax or E-mail documents for review. If you must apply for a visa, please ask for two originals of all documents. Keep one set to take to your visa appointment. (If a visa is not required for citizens from your country, you will present the financial documentation when entering the U.S.)

Financial documentation dated within the last six months is required in all these situations:

- Initial attendance
 - to apply for an F-1 (student) visa or J-1 (exchange visitor) visa or
 - to transfer your visa status from another school in the U.S. ([see footnote 1 for more information](#))
- Changing programs at Georgia Southern (for example: from the English Language Program to a degree program or from undergraduate to graduate studies) ([see footnote 2 for more information](#))
- Program extension (if you will not complete your program by the ending date on your I-20/DS-2019)

Estimated Educational and Living Expenses Summer 2008 – Spring 2009

Program of Study	Funds to be Documented by F-1 visa students	Funds to be Documented by J-1 Exchange Students (see footnote 3)	Additional funds to be documented for each dependent (spouse or child) in F-2 or J-2 visa status
English Language Program	\$18,810	N/A	\$3,380
Undergraduate (bachelor)	\$25,876	\$6,137 for 1 semester	
Graduate (masters)	\$24,598	\$12,274 for 2 semesters	

Footnotes:

1. F-1 laws require students to **leave the U.S. within 60 days** and J-1 laws require students to **leave within 30 days** of the end of the program of study *unless the student has been admitted to and received an I-20/DS-2019 for another program, has applied for OPT, or has applied for a change of visa status.* *If you want to continue studying after your current program, apply early!* Remember, the admission process may take many months!
2. Information in footnote 1 also applies for changing program levels at Georgia Southern.
3. Georgia Southern University exchange agreements require students to pay applicable tuition and fees to their "home" universities. Therefore, exchange students coming to Georgia Southern document mainly living expenses.

Sample Financial Statement

(Your bank may write a letter similar to this sample letter.)



(The bank's professionally printed logo and address must appear on the page.)

(Month, day, year)

Center for International Studies
Georgia Southern University
Forest Drive Bldg., Suite 1313 Box 8106
Statesboro, GA 30460
U.S.A.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR (account owner's name)

This statement verifies that (account owner's name) has maintained an account in good standing with our bank since (month, year) and has a current balance of (amount and type of currency) as of (current date).

Sincerely,

(*Signature of bank official*)

(Typed name of bank official)

(Title of bank official)