


GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY **Center for International Studies**
SEVIS Financial Documentation Requirements

Federal 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!

Financial documents must be

- printed on professional *letterhead stationery* or contain the bank's **official** stamp or seal, **and** be
- signed in ink by a bank official, **and** they must
- state the type of currency, **and**
- state the specific amount that is currently in the account *or* specifically state that the funds on deposit are "**greater than \$28,000 U.S. dollars**"

- **NOTE:** You can also submit a notarized copy of a bank statement containing the above details.

Additional Details

- At the time the I-20/DS-2019 is issued, the statement cannot be more than six months old.
- Funds documented must be in the student's name or letter(s) of support must be provided by the account holder(s). If funds belong to a business, the letter must be submitted on the business's official letterhead and signed in ink. **Individuals can sign the guarantor section of the SEVIS Data Form instead of providing a separate letter.**
- *Photocopies, faxes, and downloaded or scanned statements cannot be accepted.*
- If your bank cannot provide a letter written in English, the original letter (see above requirements) must be submitted along with an *official translation*.
- To assist you with making the request, you can show the sample statement on the next page to your bank.
- You may submit documents for *review* by sending them via fax (912-478-0824) or E-mail: (kriffe@georgiasouthern.edu). Please cover the account number, if included, and *wait* for an E-mail response before sending the originals in case changes need to be made.
- If you are documenting other types of funds (i.e. student loans, scholarships, employment letters, etc.), it is highly recommended that you submit copies for review.
- Ask for *two originals* of all financial documents. Send one 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.

Estimated Educational and Living Expenses Summer 2009 – Spring 2010

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	\$20,185	N/A	\$3,551
Undergraduate (bachelor)	\$27,916	\$6,566 for 1 semester	
Graduate (masters)	\$26,692 (see footnote 1)	\$13,131 for 2 semesters	

Current financial documentation 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. [\(see footnote 2\)](#)
- **Change of program** at Georgia Southern (for example: from the English Language Program to a degree program or from undergraduate to graduate studies) [\(see footnote 2\)](#)
- **Program extension** (if you will not complete your program by the ending date on your I-20/DS-2019)

Footnotes:

1. Certain graduate programs/classes have additional fees -- up to \$17,000 per year. If you are applying for a master's degree, see Professional Programs and Distance Learning Tuition at <http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/bursar/tuitionandfees/main.htm>.
2. 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!* The admission process may take many months! This 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) with an average daily balance of (amount and type of currency) over the last three months.

Sincerely,

(*Signature of bank official*)

(Typed name of bank official)

(Title of bank official)