



DETROIT MERCY LAW

Instructions and FAQs for completing the I-20 Application and Financial Support Forms

What is an I-20 and what is needed for completion? Your I-20 is your official immigration document that allows you to travel to the United States in F-1 status to attend classes. The I-20 application form must be completed in full and signed. An incomplete application may delay the issuing of the I-20.

- **Citizenship Information:** Please be sure to list **any and all** countries with which you hold citizenship and provide passport numbers. If you were not born in either the United States or Canada, you must include your Canadian Citizenship Number.
- **Passport Requirement:** All students in the program must have a valid passport that will not expire within the next six months. Please make sure to include a colored copy of your passport photo with your I-20 application documents.
- **Residency Information:** You must indicate whether you will live in the United States or Canada while enrolled in the program.
- **Student's Statement Financial Support Form:** All students **must** complete and sign.
- **Sponsor's Statement Financial Support Form:** If someone else will be assisting you with paying your tuition for the program, that person **must** complete and sign.
- **Financial Documents:** You must provide **original** financial documentation that shows you and/or your sponsors have the funds available to assist you with your education while in the program.

Important: When requesting your financial documents from your banking institutions, please make sure you obtain **two** original documents. One for you to mail to us and one to keep for your records and to use on crossing day.

What is a sponsor? A sponsor is a family member, friend, and/or loved one, who will be assisting you with paying your tuition for the program. Your sponsor will need to complete and sign the Sponsor's Statement Financial Support Form and provide documented proof that they will assist you financially with the Program. **The financial institution where you may be obtaining your student line of credit is NOT considered a sponsor. What documentation is considered acceptable financial documents?** U.S. Customs and Border Officials have indicated the following are deemed acceptable original financial documents:

1. If a student presents an email statement from the bank, then an original letter should be attached signed by a bank official verifying that the student or sponsor bank at the issuing institution. A short statement stating that the student or sponsor is a customer and has been with their bank for

20 years will be deemed sufficient if submitted with emailed bank statements. An original bank statement for the student is required if funds have been transferred into their account. If parents are providing funds, then an original statement must be submitted for the parents as well.

2. If the bank issues a letter with the accounts and specified balances listed, that will suffice in lieu of attached bank statements. The specific balances **must** be listed in this letter.
3. If a student is presenting documents regarding a loan, then an original letter is required indicating that the loan has been approved.
4. If a student is presenting documents regarding parent funds, such as an investment or retirement account, we need an original statement or a letter from their investment broker with accounts and balances listed.
5. If the student has paid tuition in full, we need a receipt for that payment as well as a bank statement showing that living expenses will be covered.

Where should I send my I-20 application and documentation of financial support? You **must submit** your information no later than **Friday, July 15, 2022** to Stephanie Winbigler at winbigsn@udmercy.edu