

International Student Guide

Welcome to VIU

WELCOME TO THE VIU FAMILY

Welcome to Virginia International University. We are honored that you have chosen VIU to further your studies, and we look forward to having you join the VIU family.



Our campus is located in Fairfax, Virginia just minutes away from the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. to provide you with exceptional learning, travel, and work opportunities.

Our student body has individuals from **more than 100 countries around the world**. The faculty and staff of VIU are as diverse as the students, and they are dedicated to providing you with the right tools to achieve your educational and career goals. Our **scholarship programs, on-campus employment opportunities, academic events, and social organizations** are designed to ensure your success.

This is an exciting time to be at VIU. Our alumni have become leaders in their communities, and we are eager to see what you will be able to accomplish. As you start your academic and professional journey with us, know that VIU supports you every step of the way.

VIU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Studying at VIU is an investment in your future. We're here to help you make this investment more affordable by offering you access to several different types of scholarships.

We are always looking for students who take their VIU experiences into their own cultures, share their knowledge with future generations, and launch successful careers. Therefore our scholarships are primarily based on such things as exemplary **personal skills, academic achievement, extracurricular participation, on-campus work, and residency**.

VIU undergraduate and graduate students who have been accepted and plan to study full-time are eligible to apply.



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

- Transfer-In
- Regional
- Special Achievement*
- New Horizon*

**Also available for current students*

Learn more about our requirements and types of scholarships here:
<http://www.viu.edu/scholarships.html>.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

- Student Activity
- Campus Employment
- Dean's Academic
- Presidential Academic

DREAM. DISCOVER. ACCOMPLISH.

F-1 VISA INFORMATION

As a newly accepted student to VIU, you are now ready to apply for your visa with the U.S. Embassy. The following information will help guide you through this 5-step process.

✓ Step #1: Pay Your SEVIS Fee

When you receive your I-20 form from VIU, the first thing you will need to do is pay your Student and Exchange Visitor Information (SEVIS) fee. All students applying for an F-1 visa to study in the United States are required to pay this fee before having a visa interview with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Visit <http://www.fmjfee.com>. You may fill out the I-901 form or mail a paper version with the fee payment. The SEVIS fee is \$200 USD. **If you do not pay this fee, your visa application will automatically be denied.**

You Will Need This Information To Pay Your SEVIS Fee:

VIU School Code: WAS214F01193003

SEVIS ID # (This number may be found on the top left hand side of the first page of your I-20 form. The number begins with the letter 'N')

✓ Step #2: Schedule Your Visa Interview

Once you have paid the fee and obtained your receipt, you may contact the U.S. Embassy in your country to make a visa interview.

Note: Make sure to print your payment confirmation. If you wait to receive your receipt by mail, it may take approximately two weeks.

To schedule your visa interview, visit <http://www.usembassy.gov> for a list of embassies. The waiting time for an interview appointment for applicants can vary by country, so completion of an **early visa application is strongly encouraged.**

✓ Step #3: Prepare for Your Visa Interview

Applicants must demonstrate that they properly meet student visa requirements including:

- Have a residence abroad (an address in the country where you live), with no intention of abandoning (permanently leaving) that residence.
- Intend to depart from the United States upon completion of your studies.
- Have enough funds to pursue the proposed course of study.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR INTERVIEW*:

- Original I-20 form provided by VIU
- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application form
- A valid passport
- One 2x2 inch photograph
- A receipt for your SEVIS fee payment
- A receipt that shows payment of the visa application fee

*Please consult with your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy as requirements may vary.

OTHER DOCUMENTS YOU SHOULD HAVE WITH YOU:

- University acceptance letter from VIU
- Transcripts and diplomas from previous schools attended
- TOEFL/IELTS, PTE, SAT, GMAT and other scores
- Financial evidence or bank statements that show you or your sponsor have enough money to cover your tuition and living expenses while in the United States

✓ Step #4: Attend the Visa Interview

During the visa application process, usually at the interview, an ink-free, digital fingerprint scan will be quickly taken.

YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO HONESTLY ANSWER QUESTIONS*, SUCH AS:

How did you hear about VIU?

Why do you want to study at VIU?

What will you study at VIU? How is this going to help you reach your life objectives?

Where is VIU located?

Where are you going to live while studying at VIU?

Why do you want to study in the USA?

*Please be advised that the above questions are only examples. The consulate may ask any question they see credible.

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F-1 VISA INFORMATION (continued)

✓ Step #5 After Completing the Interview

The first thing you should do once you have been granted or denied a visa is to notify VIU by emailing us at admissions@viu.edu.

When you are granted an F-1 visa, make sure all of the information on your visa is correct. Any corrections to the visa can only be requested at the US Embassy which granted you your visa. For more information regarding your international student visa process, please contact International Student Services Office at dso@viu.edu.

IN CASE YOUR VISA IS DENIED, YOU MAY DEFER YOUR ADMISSION TO THE NEXT AVAILABLE SEMESTER AND SECURE A SECOND VISA INTERVIEW AT THE US EMBASSY.

ARRIVAL TO VIU

Plan your arrival in advance to make sure you can attend the New Student Orientation and complete your enrollment before the first day of classes.

Please keep in mind that new international F-1 students are not allowed to enter the United States more than 30 days before the first day of classes. Late arrival and registration may lead to late fees and complications with the visa.

The best time to arrive to VIU is at **least 2 weeks prior** to the program start date listed on your I-20 form.



Once you arrive to the US, visit VIU to check-in and register for your classes:

1. Sign-in and meet an International Student Services Representative
2. Take VIU Placement Test, if applicable
3. Check-in with the Admissions Representative
4. Meet your Academic Advisor to register for classes
5. Pay your tuition & fees at the Accounting Office
6. Attend the New Student Orientation

Below is a list of documents required for check-in. Failure to bring any of the documents below, per your program may result in a delay in the registration process.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- VIU application documents (original documents of those used during the admission process)
- Passport (valid at least 6 months from the first day of classes)
- F-1 visa entry stamp
- Acceptance letter from VIU and pre-requisite letter (if applicable)
- I-20 Form with your signature in blue ink
- Previous I-20 form(s) (Transfer-in students ONLY)

HOUSING

It is best to begin looking for housing accommodations as soon as you have received your I-20 form. This will provide you with sufficient time to explore housing options before classes begin.



TEMPORARY HOUSING

There are several affordable hotels within walking distance from VIU. If you wish to book a reservation with the discounted VIU rate, please email studentaffairs@viu.edu for help. You will be responsible for covering the cost of temporary housing.



APARTMENT RENTALS

Rental rates in the Fairfax area depend on the type of housing you choose. On top of rent, you should anticipate expenses for internet, telephone, and utilities such as water, gas, electricity, and heat. Apartment rentals can be furnished or unfurnished.

Currently VIU is offering a shared apartment units within walking distance to the university. There are many different ways to find housing in the communities surrounding VIU on your own. You can find general information about housing on our website and submit a housing application at: <http://www.viu.edu/students/services/housing.html>

If you would like assistance from VIU's Housing Department, please email studentaffairs@viu.edu.



TRANSPORTATION

Our campus is located in Fairfax, Virginia – one of the safest and most developed counties in the US. There are many ways to reach VIU.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

VIU students and visitors can take advantage of the local area's metrorail and bus system WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) which serves the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area along the main routes. VIU is only three miles away from Vienna/ Fairfax Metrorail Station at the end of Orange Line. For information on using WMATA, including maps, travel times, and trip planning, please visit <http://www.wmata.com>.



AIRPORT TRANSFERS

VIU provides airport transfers to our freshmen students from IAD (Washington Dulles International Airport) or DCA (Ronald Reagan National Airport) to the VIU campus or housing. Airport transfer is only available Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. To request this service, please complete the online Transportation Request form: <http://www.viu.edu/future-students/service/transportation.html>. Confirmation of airport transfer needs to be made at least one week in advance **and** on the day you arrive at the airport.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation will prepare you for your time at VIU and make you feel at home. Please check your acceptance letter for the dates of orientation. Attendance is required prior to starting class.



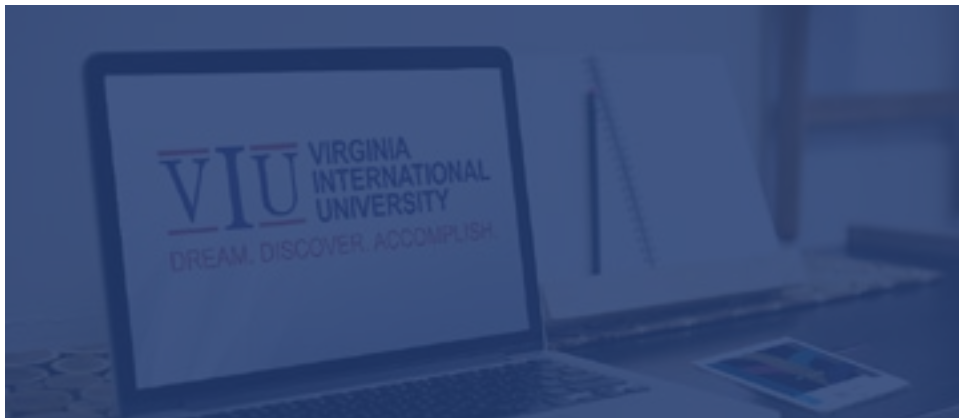
Meet your fellow classmates from more than 100 countries and join student clubs



Get to know VIU staff who will assist you throughout your studies



Learn about scholarships, housing, public transportation, banking and much more!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Check your visa for mistakes as soon as you receive it. Mistakes on your visa cannot be corrected once you arrive in the United States
- You will **not** be allowed to enter the United States **more than 30 days prior to the program start date listed on your I-20 form.**
- Entry to the U.S. after the first day of classes requires permission from VIU and may require issuance of a new I-20 form.
- All new students are required to attend one of the new student orientations.
- All new students who enter the United States with an I-20 form issued by VIU are required to pay their semester tuition in full by the first day of classes in order to avoid late fees.
- Students who do not register for classes and pay their tuition fees by the add/drop deadline will have their I-20 form terminated and will be legally out of status.
- Health insurance is not mandatory for students at VIU. However, we do highly encourage you to enroll in a health insurance plan. For more information and health insurance plan options please visit: <http://viu.edu/students/student-affairs/health-insurance.html>.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



U.S. EMBASSY



<http://www.usembassy.gov/>



S.E.V.I.S.



www.ice.gov/sevis/i901



+ 1 (212) 620-3418



VIU ADMISSIONS



<http://www.viu.edu/admissions>



+1 (703) 591-7042 or +1 (800) 514-6848 (TOLL FREE)



admissions@viu.edu

PROGRAMS OFFERED

VIU is made up of eight schools, each with a unique and unparalleled educational experience. Students may choose from graduate, undergraduate and certificate programs in the most sought-after fields in business, computer science, education, and international affairs.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (SB)

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Accounting
- Master of Science in Project Management
- Graduate Certificate in Project Management
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SCIS)

- Master of Science in Computer Science (MCS)
- Master of Science in Information Systems (MIS)
- Master of Science in Information Systems Management (MISM)
- Master of Science in Information Technology (MIT)
- Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSE)
- Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence
- Graduate Certificate in Information Systems
- Graduate Certificate in Information Systems Management
- Graduate Certificate in Information Technology Audit & Compliance
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SED)

- Master of Arts in TESOL (MATESOL)
- Master of Science in Applied Linguistics (MSAPLX.)
- Graduate Certificate in TESOL

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (SPIA)

- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of Science in International Relations (MIR)

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE STUDIES (SLS)

- English as a Second Language (ESL)

Virginia International University is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and certified to operate in Virginia by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

Stay connected with VIU.



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VIUEDU



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VIUEDU

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



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