



Fall 2019

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER STUDENT GUIDE



International Student Welcome

Welcome to California and El Camino College. Coming to a new country can be an exciting experience; an opportunity to study in a new environment, learn new skills, experience different ways of doing things, and to be exposed to new ways of thinking.

El Camino College is located in one of the most exciting regions of the world. El Camino is in the city of Torrance, a suburban city in sunny Southern California just miles from the beach and famous attractions such as Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Disneyland. It's also close to Los Angeles, with access to museums, entertainment, and internship opportunities within a large metropolitan area.

The International Student Program at El Camino College is here to assist you in the admissions process, counseling, and guiding you through the immigration rules and regulations. We are here also to support you through your academic endeavors and to help you realize your educational goals. We are looking forward to meeting you.

International Student Program Office Staff

Lindsey Ludwig, ECLA/ISP Manager	lludwig@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-6473
Leonid Rachman, Coordinator	lrachman@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-3593 ext 3417
Candace Trice, Student Services Specialist	ctrice@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-3431
Dosha Bautista, Student Services Technician	dbautista@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-3431
Alma Sandoval, Program Assistant	asandoval@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-5113
Caroline Etges, Program Assistant	cetges@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-5417
Yadira Velez, Program Assistant	yvelez@elcamino.edu	(310) 660-5417

International Student Counselors

Counselors are available to help students with their class assignments, academic issues and transferring information to other colleges and universities. To schedule an appointment with a counselor, please visit the International Student Program office.

International Student Counseling Staff

Amy Herrschaft

Email: aherrschaft@elcamino.edu
Phone: (310) 660-6049

Margaret Miranda

Email: lmiranda@elcamino.edu
Phone: (310) 660-3447



INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

El Camino College is located in an extremely diverse area that has international markets for a lot of different ethnicities nearby. Below is a list of just some of those markets.

African

Dat Moi Market
144415 Crenshaw Blvd
Gardena, CA 90249

Asian

Asia Foods
10200 Venice Blvd #105
Culver City, CA 90232

Asian Mart
3732 W 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Brazilian

Brazil Mania
1521 Cabrillo Ave
Torrance, CA 90501

Hi Brazil Market
2418 Artesia Blvd Redondo
Beach, CA 90278

Chinese

99 Ranch Market
1340 Artesia Blvd
Gardena, CA 90248

Ai Hoa Market
860 N Hill St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Market World 3030
Sepulveda Blvd
Torrance, CA 90505

Indian

Makkah Market
22846 S Western Ave
Torrance, CA 90501

Super Hayat Market 3964
Redondo Beach Blvd
Torrance, CA 90504

European

Hawthorne Market
24202 Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, CA 90505

Filipino

Joy Bakery
124 W Carson St
Carson, CA 90745

Seafood City Market
131 W Carson St.
Carson, CA 90745

French

Le Pain Du Jour 13528
S Inglewood Ave
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Monsieur Marcel Market
6333 W 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Japanese

Chikara Mochi 16108
S Western Ave
Gardena, CA 90247

Mitsuwa Market
21515 S Western Ave
Torrance, CA 90501

Nijiya Market
2533 Pacific Coast Hwy Ste B
Torrance, CA 90505

Seiwa Market
21815 Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503

Tokyo Central 1740
W Artesia Blvd
Gardena, CA 90248

—
2832 Sepulveda Blvd
Torrance, CA 90505

Korean

Han Kook Supermarket
124 N Western Ave Los
Angeles, CA 90004

H Mart
621 S Western Ave Los
Angeles, CA 90005

S-Mart
2515 Torrance Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503

Mexican

Adelita Bakery 14807
S Western Ave
Gardena, CA 90249

Diana's Market 16529
Normandie Ave
Gardena, CA 90247

Northgate Gonzalez
3930 W Rosecrans Ave
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Superior Grocers
15000 Crenshaw Blvd
Gardena, CA

Middle Eastern

Al Salam Market
4636 Del Amo Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503

Hawthorne Market
24202 Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, CA 90505

Taiwanese

85 Degrees Bakery
1735 W Carson St. #A
Torrance, CA 90501

—
1386 W Artesia Blvd
Gardena, CA 90248

Vietnamese

Dat Moi Market
144415 Crenshaw Blvd
Gardena, CA 90249

Saigon Market
15705 S Hawthorne Blvd
Lawndale, CA 90261

Employee Favorites

Caroline from Brazil
El Gaucho Market-Latin American
2715 Manhattan Beach Blvd
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Leonid from Russia/Israel
H Mart-Korean Market
4340 Pacific Coast Hwy
Torrance, CA 90505

Alma from USA/Mexico
World Market-International
22929 Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, CA 90505

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

It is very important that you follow the instructions below to transfer your I-20 to El Camino College from your current school. It is your responsibility to turn in the required documentation to complete the transfer at your current school. El Camino College cannot transfer your I-20 for you.

1. Take your El Camino College **acceptance letter** and **Transfer Approval Form (SEE LAST PAGE OF THIS PACKET)** to the student advisor at your current school.
2. Complete "**Section A**" of the Transfer Approval Form.
3. Have the student advisor at your current school complete "**Section B**" and return the form to the El Camino College ISP office as soon as possible.
4. Complete any additional steps and paperwork necessary at your current school to transfer your I-20.

This is required to ensure that your I-20 is transferred electronically in SEVIS to El Camino College in a timely manner.

****FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE PROCEDURES MAY CAUSE YOU TO FALL OUT OF STATUS WITH THE USCIS (UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE).**

**NOTE: YOU MUST LET YOUR CURRENT SCHOOL KNOW
THAT YOU ARE TRANSFERRING!**

Immunization/Shot Information

- * While El Camino College does not require international students to submit immunization/shot records at this time, we recommend that you get vaccinated for mumps and rubella before coming to the US. Hepatitis B and Meningitis vaccines are also strongly recommended.

Health Insurance

United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) requires all international students to maintain **mandatory medical insurance for the duration of their studies**. El Camino College has contracted student insurance specifically for the needs of our international students. The cost is estimated at \$1395.00 per year (\$697.50 per semester-Fall and Spring) and begins either January 1st or July 1st depending upon which semester you begin your studies. The insurance has no deductible and, in many cases, *may* cover 100% of expenses following satisfaction of any applicable co-payment. ***See the next page for coverage information.**

2018-2019 International Student Insurance

Student Insurance & LowerMark are pleased to provide the international student medical insurance plan for **El Camino College**.

For additional information, please visit us at www.studentinsuranceusa.com or call 1-800-367-5830.

Carry your LowerMark Insurance ID Card with you at all times

2017-2018 Benefits	Medical Insurance Benefits Per Policy Year for El Camino College <small>(\$500,000 - 100% of Allowed Charge/80% of Reasonable and Customary Expenses)</small>
Maximum Per Injury or Sickness	\$500,000
Policy Year Maximum Benefit	\$500,000
Pre-Existing Condition Benefit (6 months)	\$2,500
Student Health Center or approved Walk-in Clinic	\$0 copay for eligible benefits
Copay Per Office Visit	In Network: 100% after \$20 copay Out of Network: 80% after \$35 copay
Copay Per Hospital Visit	In Network: 100% after a \$50 admittance copay Out of Network: 80% after a \$70 admittance copay
Wellness Benefit (up to \$250 per policy year)	100% up to \$250 per policy year
Emergency Ambulance Services	Up to policy maximum by ground Up to a maximum of \$10,000 by air
Emergency Room Visit	\$100 in network copay/\$200 out of network copay
Prescription Drugs (up to \$2,500 per policy year outpatient)	100% covered if dispensed as inpatient in the hospital or 50% covered if dispensed as outpatient at a Cigna pharmacy
Medical Treatment of a Mental Condition	Maximum of 30 days inpatient, maximum, of 30 outpatient visits
Physiotherapy (only when prescribed by a Physician)	20 visits per policy year
Medical Evacuation	\$50,000**
Repatriation	\$25,000**

**Scholastic Emergency Services provides additional benefits.

Services below are included in your plan with 24/7 translation assistance.

Scholastic Emergency Services (SES)

An Assist America Partner

1-877-488-9833

In the event of an emergency, SES offers a wide variety of services, at no additional charge to the student.

- Medical Evacuation or Transport
- Compassionate Family Visit
- Repatriation of Mortal Remains

MyNurse 24/7 Medical Help Line

1-866-549-5076

Speak with a nurse about your health, illness or where to go if you feel sick or are injured.

- Friendly, experienced, Registered Nurses help you decide what your best choices are.
- Assistance with any Health Issues or Questions
- General Health and Wellness Information

Morneau Shepell Counseling Services

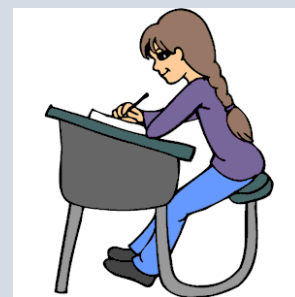
1-855-492-3624

Student Support Advisors can help you anytime, anywhere with:

- Adapting to new cultures
- Being successful in school
- Relationships with friends and family
- Stress, anxiety, sadness, loneliness and more

ACCUPLACER PLACEMENT TEST PREPARATION

All students are encouraged to review before taking the placement tests. Reviewing and practice may help you to place higher, which means you will **save time** (fewer classes to take) and **money** (fewer classes to pay for) and you will accomplish your educational goals much faster.



The English Placement Test consists of two sections:

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Sentence Skills (Writing and Speaking)

***Mathematic Placement will be done at orientation by the academic counselor after reviewing your high school transcripts for previous math classes taken, along with the grades you received in those classes.**

You can do an internet search for free **Accuplacer** tests. Below are additional websites recommended for preparation:

WEBSITES FOR ESL/ENGLISH REVIEW

Accuplacer Web-Based Study App – Free

<https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org>

The ACCUPLACER Web-Based Study App features practice tests in Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills. For computer, tablet, and Smartphone. The Study App site includes the following features:

- "Learn As You Go" tests provide you with explanation of the correct or incorrect responses
- Sample Tests help you experience what a real test may be like on test day
- Save your work and process, and resume practicing at a later time
- Review your score history to identify areas of strength and weaknesses
- **6 months of access to the ACCUPLACER Web-Based Study App**

College Board - Free

<http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students>

Has a complete ACCUPLACER English Test with accompanying answers.

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-sample-questions-for-students.pdf>

Has a .pdf book of sample questions in Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills.

Union Test Prep - Free

<https://uniontestprep.com/accuplacer-test/practice-test>

Has ESL practice questions with explanations for ESL Language Use, ESL Listening, ESL Reading Skills and ESL Sentence Meaning.

Google it! Search "Accuplacer practice tests" to find more sample, tests, and search Youtube.com for practice videos.

ESL Accuplacer Reading Skills Samples:

1. Studyguidezone: www.studyguidezone.com/accuplacer_reading.htm
2. Testpreppractice.net: www.testpreppractice.net/ACCUPLACER/Reading-Comprehension-ACCUPLACER-Practice-Tests.aspx

ESL Accuplacer Sentence Skills Sample:

1. Accuplacerpracticetest.com: <https://www.accuplacerpracticetest.com/accuplacer-sentence-skills-practice-test/>

TEST INFORMATION

Tests are not timed, but their length is approximately one hour each. Although the tests are taken on a computer, no special knowledge of computers is necessary. Results are available immediately after completion.

Degree Programs Offered at El Camino College

Associate of Arts Degree	Associate of Science Degree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Justice* Anthropology Anthropology for Transfer (AA-T) Art: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art History Studio Art Art History for Transfer (AA-T) Child Development* Communication Studies for Transfer (AA-T) Dance Economics Economics for Transfer (AA-T) Elementary Teacher Education (AA-T) English English for Transfer (AA-T) Ethnic Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African American Studies American Cultures Asian American Studies Chicano Studies Native American Studies Film/Video* French General Studies Geography for Transfer (AA-T) History History for Transfer (AA-T) Japanese Journalism* Journalism for Transfer (AA-T) Kinesiology for Transfer (AA-T) Liberal Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary Teaching Teacher Preparation Music Paralegal Studies* Philosophy Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T) Physical Education Political Science Political Science for Transfer (AA-T) Psychology for Transfer (AA-T) Real Estate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mortgage Brokerage* Real Estate* Real Estate Appraisal* Recreation Sign Language/Interpreter Training* Sociology for Transfer (AA-T) Spanish Spanish for Transfer (AA-T) Studio Arts for Transfer (AA-T) Theatre Theatre Arts for Transfer (AA-T) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Justice for Transfer (AS-T)* Air Conditioning and Refrigeration* Architecture* Astronomy Automotive Collision Repair/Painting* Automotive Technology* Biology Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting* Business Administration* Marketing* Office Administration-Management* Office Administration-Office Systems* Business Administration for Transfer (AS-T)* Chemistry Computer Aided Design/Drafting* Computer Information Systems* Construction Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet and Fine Woodworking* Construction Technology* Cosmetology* Early Childhood Education for Transfer (AS-T) Electronics and Computer Hardware Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Technology* Electronics Technology* Engineering Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering Technician* Engineering Technology* Environmental Horticulture* Fashion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fashion Design and Production* Fashion Merchandising* Fire and Emergency Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Technology* Paramedical Technician* General Science Geography Geology for Transfer (AS-T) Machine Tool Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machinist* Numerical Control Programmer* Manufacturing Technology* Mathematics Mathematics for Transfer (AS-T) Nursing* Photography* Physical Science Physics Physics for Transfer (AS-T) Pre-Engineering Pre-Nursing* Radiologic Technology* Respiratory Care* Welding*

* Indicates Career and Technical Education (CTE); Visit: www.elcamino.edu/academics/cte

Ground Transportation from LAX

If you need transportation from the airport you can catch an Uber or Lyft (you must download the APP to your cell phone first) on the departure level of the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) or take a taxi which can be found outside of the arrival level. There are also airport shuttles available:

Super Shuttle	www.supershuttle.com/htm/cities/lax.htm	(310) 782-6600
Prime Time Shuttle	www.primetimeshuttle.com/SoCal.htm	1-800-733-8267
Xpress Shuttle	www.xpressshuttle.com/los_angeles.htm	(310) 323-7222

Local Bus Transportation

Metro (MTA)	www.metro.net	1-800-266-6883
Torrance Transit	www.ci.torrance.ca.us/city/dept/transit/index.html	(310) 320-9442

Car Rentals

Car rental companies require that you be at least 21 years of age and have a valid Driver's License (US, International, or home country) and a major credit card.

Alamo	www.alamo.com	Dollar	www.dollar.com
Avis	www.avis.com	Enterprise	www.enterprise.com
Budget	www.budget.com	Hertz	www.hertz.com

Directions to El Camino College from Los Angeles Airport (LAX)

1. Get on I-105 E from Vicksburg Ave and CA-1 S/S Sepulveda Blvd
2. Take I-405 S to CA-107 N/Hawthorne Blvd in Lawndale. Take exit 42A from I-405 S
3. Take Manhattan Beach Blvd to Crenshaw Blvd in El Camino Village. El Camino College is on the right.

IMPORTANT: Student Transfer Requirements

Transfer students MUST have their I-20 transferred from their current school AT LEAST 7 days before the start of classes.

International Transfer Student Orientation - June 25-26, 2019

Tues, June 25, 2019

8:30 AM	Sign In (East Dining, Bookstore Bldg. 2nd Floor)
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Lecture and Guest Speakers (will have lunch provided)
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Resource Fair
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Testing (ESL/English Accuplacer Test)

Wed, June 26, 2019

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Group 1 -Academic Counseling and Registration - <i>Will be Assigned at Orientation</i>
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Group 2 -Academic Counseling and Registration - <i>Will be Assigned at Orientation</i>

HOUSING OPTIONS

The homestay option will provide students with the opportunity to speak English while learning about American culture and lifestyle.

Global Student Services® Homestay

Application Fee: \$300.00
Security Deposit: \$150.00
Airport Pickup: Additional fee applies

Homestay Options (per four weeks*):

- Homestay with (2) meals \$900
- Homestay without meals \$775

Global Student Services, USA®

1436 Brett Pl. #18
San Pedro, CA 90732
USA
[Tel: 310.438.7485](tel:310.438.7485)
Fax: 310.391.7881
gssusa2001@gmail.com
global-student-service.com

Length Of Stay	With 2 Meals Daily	Without Meals
4 Weeks (28 days)	\$975*	\$825*
8 Weeks	\$1,950	\$1,650
10 Weeks	\$2,347	\$2,062
12 Weeks*	\$2,915	\$2,465
16 Weeks*	\$3,885	\$3,285
20 Weeks*	\$4,855	\$4,125
24 Weeks*	\$5,825	\$4,925

*Minimum required stay for colleges - 8 weeks.

*For stays of 12 weeks or longer a discount is included in cost.

Private Apartments*

Apartments are available in Torrance and areas around El Camino College. Following are some apartments **within walking distance** from El Camino College. Students are encouraged to contact the owners or managers directly for rental arrangements.

Alondra Park Apts (310) 323-2652
Il Pompeii (310) 327-3681
Park Yukon Apartments (310) 516-0526
Torrance Garden Apartments (310) 324-1494
Tropic Isle Apartments (310) 323-8028
Apartments (close to ECC) (310) 546-2505

More apartments are available at Redondo Beach Blvd, Yukon St., Artesia and Crenshaw Blvd.

Price range for studio apartments: \$900-\$1200/month

Room Share and Private Apartments

Find apartments or room share by using the Internet:
www.losangeles.craigslist.org/roo/
www.losangeles.craigslist.org/apa/

To find an appropriate housing use the **"Search by Keyword"** and type in "El Camino College", "Torrance", "Lawndale", "Gardena," or "Hawthorne"

**El Camino College offers these facilities as suggestions and does not endorse, support, or assume responsibility for these facilities.*

Local Hotels and Motels

Redondo Beach Inn

One Bedroom \$75 (per night)
Two Bedrooms \$95 (per night)
1912 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.,
Gardena CA 90260

Tel:(310) 538-1488

Tel:(310) 308-4958

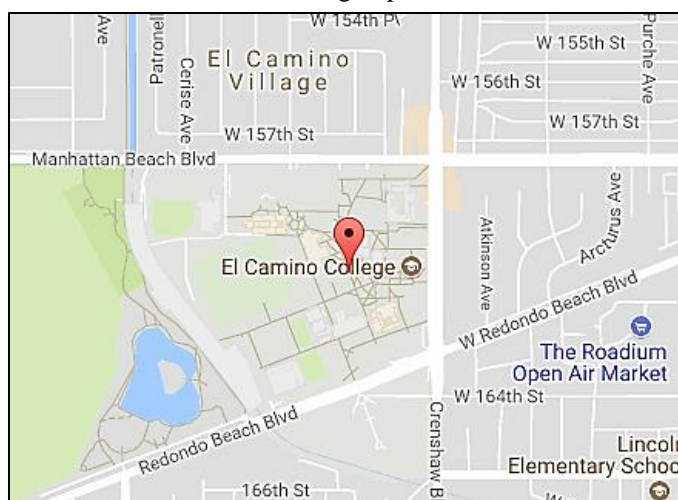
For reservations: www.redondobeachinn.net

*Mention El Camino College to receive discount rate.

Days Inn

One Bedroom \$125 (est. per night)
15636 Hawthorne Blvd., Lawndale, CA 90260
Tel:(310) 676-7378 Fax:(310) 676-3138
Tel:(310) 318-6132 Fax:(310) 372-9134

For reservations contact: ranagroup@earthlink.com



CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE AND ID CARD

It is important for you to carry some form of personal identification (ID) which includes your photograph, name, address and date of birth at all times. The California driver license and the State ID card are considered the official documents for routine identification purposes in California.

California ID Card

When you cash a check, open a bank account, register your automobile, etc., you will be asked for an ID. Your passport has this information, but it is not recommended that you carry it with you on a daily basis because it may get lost.

There are two types of ID's available to you from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV): the California ID Card and the California Driver License (if you plan to drive while you are here). For additional information on the DMV procedures, you can visit their website at:

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv>

California Driver License

While international students can use their home driver's license if it is valid, it can only be used for the first couple months after you arrive in the U.S. If you plan on driving a motor vehicle while here, you will be expected to have a California driver's license. You cannot drive in California with an International Driving Permit. To acquire a California Driver's License, you must pass a written exam and a driving exam at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Steps to Apply for a Driver License

1. Study a copy of the "California Driver Handbook" from DMV
2. Pick up enrollment verification from ISP Office
3. Make an appointment at DMV
4. Take your I-20, proof of enrollment, passport and I-94 to appointment
5. Complete application (DL 44, copies will not be accepted). Use your I-94 and passport for the social security #

Local Department of Motor Vehicles (DVM) Offices:

TORRANCE

1785 W 220th St.
Torrance, CA 90501

INGLEWOOD

621 N La Brea Ave
Inglewood, CA 90302

HAWTHORNE

3700 W El Segundo Blvd
Hawthorne, CA 90250

COMPTON

2111 S. Santa Fe Ave.
Compton, CA 90221

Phone: (800) 777-0133

Office Hours:

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Wednesday

Website: www.dmv.ca.gov

BANKS AND OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

You should open an account at a bank as soon as you get to California. It is much safer and more convenient for you to have your money deposited into an account than to be carrying cash around. After an account is opened, if your family wants to wire you money, wire transfers can be made and money be available after a few days.

Opening a U.S. Checking and Savings Account

When opening a U.S. bank account, international students will generally need documentation that proves their identity and residence in the local area. Items to take are: passport, I-20, and a lease agreement or utility bill.

U.S. Banks Accepting International Students

Banks that serve our international students include: Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Chase, and US Bank. It is good to check with these banks along with others in town to see the best options for you. Also, you can check with your home country bank to see if they have a partnership with a bank in the U.S.

PAYING TUITION AND FEES

U.S. Bank Check or Cash

If you are paying your tuition and fees with a U.S. Bank check or with cash, you will pay your tuition at the cashier's window located on the lower level of the Bookstore Building.

Cashier's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8am-6pm
Friday 8am-1pm

Phone: 310.532.3670, ext. 3142

Credit or Debit Card

Pay online 24 hours a day at <http://www.elcamino.edu/myecc/>

Wire Transfer

Student's wanting to pay with a wire transfer from their home country bank to El Camino College directly can do so. **Make sure to have your name, student ID#, and indicate you are an F-1 student on the wire.**

Bank Information:

Bank of America
Hawthorne Office #203
12547 S. Hawthorne Blvd.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Account Name:

El Camino College Trust Fund
Account Number: 02030-07677
Swift code: BOFAUS3N
Routing Number: 026009593

El Camino College Parking Permit

If you are planning to drive and park a car on campus, you will either need to purchase a \$3 daily parking pass at one of the yellow permit dispenser machines and display it on your car dashboard, or buy a semester permit.

Semester Permits:

Fall and Spring	\$35
Summer	\$20
Motorcycles	\$20

Semester parking permits can be purchased at the cashier's window or online using your MyECC account.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

HOW TO...

MAINTAIN YOUR STUDENT F-1 STATUS

To maintain legal F-1 student status at El Camino College, you are required to:

- Complete the mandatory visa check-in and attend the new international student orientation.
- Maintain full-time enrollment which is a minimum of 12 units per semester (Fall and Spring). You **MUST** have **AT LEAST** 9 units per semester (Fall and Spring) of **on-campus** instruction.
- Conform to regulations for travel outside of the U.S. and keep your passport valid for six months beyond the program start date.
- Accept no off-campus employment; work no more than twenty hours per week on campus while attending school on a full-time basis.
- Notify the International Student Programs office **BEFORE** you transfer to another US institution. You must fill out transfer documentation and turn in an acceptance letter for your new school or we will be unable to transfer your I-20.
- Leave the US, transfer to another US school, or do Optional Practical Training (OPT) post-graduation within **SIXTY DAYS** after the completion of your program.
- Request an extension of your I-20 if you need additional time to complete the coursework for your program of study. Your I-20 cannot expire while you are studying at El Camino College.





Frequently Asked Questions

What is an I-20?

The I-20 form is the document you need from El Camino College in order to apply for your F-1 student visa at the US Embassy located in your home country. You will also need to present your I-20 form at the US border along with your F-1 visa and other supporting documents in order to be able to enter the U.S. as an F-1 student.

How do I make my visa interview appointment?

To make an appointment at a U.S. Consulate visit www.usembassy.gov. Be sure to complete all required forms and pay the required fees before your visa appointment. Learn more at: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/04/how-to-prepare-for-your-visa-appointment>

What happens if my visa is denied?

If you receive a visa denial, request a denial letter from the US Consulate so that you will understand why your visa was denied. The main reason visas are denied for the U.S. is failure of the applicant to prove they have permanent ties to their home country. Learn more about visa denials at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/denials.html>

How do I register for and pay for my classes?

After you complete math and English placement testing, you will then meet with an academic counselor to determine course placement. Once you have your educational plan for the semester, you will be able to register for classes. If you are coming from another country to El Camino College, you will do these steps at orientation. You will pay tuition and fees **AFTER** you are enrolled in your classes.

Do F-1 students need health insurance to study at ECC?

All F-1 Visa students are required to purchase El Camino College designated health insurance. You can find more about the insurance company at their website www.studentinsuranceusa.com. The cost of the health insurance is currently \$1,395* per calendar year (12 months). **Student Insurance may change this rate at any time.*

- Contact Information: Student Insurance Agency, 10801 National Blvd. #603, LA, CA 90064
- Email: burke@studentinsuranceusa.com
- Tel: 310.826-5688 / Fax: (310) 826-1601

Can I waive the El Camino College student health insurance?

No. All F-1 students are required to purchase the El Camino College designated health insurance; student health insurance waivers are not accepted.

How can my dependents (spouse and children) come with me to the U.S.?

Only a spouse and/or child(ren) under the age of 21 can accompany you as a dependent. Parents, grandparents, and other relatives are not eligible to come to the U.S. with you as your F-1 dependent.

What do I need to do once I reach the U.S.?

Upon arrival to the U.S., you must check in to the ISP office at El Camino College within 10 days of arrival.

How can I update my address and phone number?

It is required that international students report a change of address within 10 days of moving to the ISP office.

Where can I find information about housing and living in California?

Although El Camino College does **not** provide housing for students, we hope to ensure that our students have information about housing options to assist in their housing search. We suggest students start the search for housing options several months before their expected move in date. Please see the housing information page in this booklet.

**The inclusion of any apartment or agency on the list does not represent an endorsement of services or facilities, nor does it guarantee vacancies exist. Please be aware that ECC does not assume responsibility for inspecting or supervising any housing facility.*

Can my visa expire while I am in the United States?

Yes, you can remain in the United States on an expired Visa as long as you have a valid I-20. If you need to exit the country, you will need to renew your Visa before you can re-enter the US. However, your passport cannot expire while you are in the US.

