



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSION PACKET

Main Campus

3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34981-5596
1-866-792-4772
www.irsc.edu

Chastain Campus

2400 S.E. Salerno Road
Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 283-6550

Mueller Campus

6155 College Lane
Vero Beach, FL 32966
(772) 569-0333

Dixon Hendry Campus

2229 N.W. 9th Ave
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 824-6000

Pruitt Campus

500 N.W. California Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 879-4199

Dear International Student Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in attending Indian River State College (IRSC). This packet provides the information needed to begin the International Student application process, as well as essential IRSC International Student admission forms. Please review the information carefully before you complete and submit the documents. Upon receipt of all the documents, we will then determine your eligibility for admission to IRSC. The college recommends submitting all forms and documentations three months prior to the first day of classes for the intended semester.

Indian River State College is a public college offering comprehensive programs leading to an Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degrees. Some degree programs have selective admissions processes and have additional entrance requirements. Consult the IRSC College Catalog or our web site www.irsc.edu for current information on all programs.

Admissions:

The following documents must be received in the IRSC International Student Office by the recommended deadline dates listed for each term.

- **IRSC Application for Admission and Statement of Residency** – Apply online at www.irsc.edu or mail completed application. F-1 Visa Students are considered non- Florida residents for tuition purposes.
- **Application fee** – Non-refundable \$30.00 application fee. Fee may be paid online or mail check, money order payable to Indian River State College.
- **Official Transcripts** – Successful completion of a secondary high school program is required for admission. Transcripts, certificates, academic records and/or examination results must include courses taken and grades achieved. Documents in a language other than English must be accompanied by a certified English translation. Post-secondary: Students who have attended a postsecondary educational institution outside the United States must have their foreign academic credentials evaluated by any NACES member organization (www.naces.org/members.htm) and provide IRSC Admissions and Records with a course by course evaluation of the official translated transcripts from each institution attended. The student is responsible for evaluation fees and there is no guarantee that any coursework will transfer to IRSC.
- **Affidavit of Financial Support** – Indian River State College is required by U.S. Federal Regulations to verify the financial resources of each applicant prior to issuing the Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20). Applicants must provide financial documents verifying the ability to pay his/her living and educational expenses while attending IRSC. The applicant must complete the Affidavit of Financial Support forms and submit valid supporting financial documents certifying sufficient funds are available to cover expenses for the first year at Indian River State College. The affidavit forms must be signed by the applicant and sponsor. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-134 may be used in lieu of this document. You can download this form at www.uscis.gov. Documents must be original, dated less than six months from the date of intended enrollment and issued by a financial institution verifying the minimum amount of - \$17,000 for Associate Degree programs or \$20,000 for Bachelor Degree programs. **ALL FUNDS MUST BE IN U. S. DOLLARS.**

NOTE: F-1 Visa students are not eligible for Florida resident tuition fees regardless of time living in the United States. The non-Florida resident tuition fees apply throughout the entire time as an F-1 Visa student.

- **TOEFL Score Report** – Official score report of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of students whose native language is not English. A minimum score of 500 (paper-based), 173 (computer-based) or 61 (Internet-based) is required. Information and registration may be done online at www.toefl.org. Scores are valid for two years.
- **Health Insurance Form** – You must show proof of health insurance coverage before you will be cleared to register for classes. Remember that if you bring your spouse and/or children with you, they must also be adequately insured. Coverage is not restricted to a specific health insurance company. Read, complete and sign the Health Insurance Form pertaining to coverage and amount needed.
- **Transfer Release Form** – If you are transferring from a school within the U. S., you must complete the top portion of the International Student Transfer Release Form. The International Student Advisor at your present school must complete the bottom portion and forward it to Indian River State College.
- **Admission Checklist** – Fill out International Student Admission Checklist Form.

Mail all required documents to:

**Indian River State College- International Student Office
3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Phone: (772) 462-7784 / Fax: (772) 462-4699**

Once your documents have been reviewed and approved, you will be issued the I-20 form (Certificate of Eligibility). You will then make an appointment with the embassy in your country for the F-1 Student Visa.

Upon approval of F-1 Student Visa and arrival to the U.S., report to the International Student Office located in the W-Building, Main Campus, with your updated I-20, I-94 – Arrival/Departure Record and passport. You will **not** be cleared to register until we receive these documents.

Be advised that acceptance to Indian River State College does not guarantee you will be granted a student visa by the U.S. Embassy in your country; nor does it guarantee you will be granted a change of status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT Admission Checklist

Terms	Recommended Deadline Dates
Fall (August)	May 15th
Spring (January)	October 15th
Summer I (May)	March 1st
Summer II (June)	April 1st

Visa Information:

- What visa status do you presently hold? F1 F2 none Other _____
I-94 expiration date (mo/yr) _____
- Will you be applying for the F-1 student visa in your country? Yes No
- Will you be applying for the F-1 student visa in the United States? Yes No

Transfer Students:

- If you have attended a college or university in the United States and wish to transfer to IRSC, complete the International Student Transfer Release Form and present a copy of your I-20 from the school you last attended. **In addition, official transcripts from each college or university must be sent to IRSC.**
- Which institution issued your current/previous I-20? _____
- Provide copies of: current/previous I-20 current Visa Passport
 I-94 -Arrival/Department Record Official Transcripts from Previous School
 Transfer Clearance Form

TOEFL:

- Native Language: _____
- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of International Students whose native language is not English. Official scores of 500 (paper-based) /173 (computer-based)/ 61 (Internet-based) are required for admissions. Forward official score report.

- IRSC Application for Admission and Statement of Residency _____
- Application fee _____
- Official transcripts _____
- Affidavit of Financial Support _____
- TOEFL Score Report _____
- Health Insurance Form _____
- Transfer Release Form _____

Mail all required documents along with this Checklist to:
Indian River State College • International Student Office
3209 Virginia Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Phone: (772) 462-7784 / Fax: (772) 462-4699



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT Affidavit of Financial Support Form

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services requires Indian River State College to obtain and retain an Affidavit of Financial Support for all applicants for an F-1 visa. This Affidavit verifies that the student has sufficient funds to support themselves while studying in the United States. The student, sponsor or other sponsoring agency must prove that a minimum of \$17,000 (U.S. dollars) per year for Associate degrees or \$20,000 (U.S. dollars) per year for Bachelor's degrees is available for tuition and living expenses. Submit valid supporting financial documents verifying access to the funds. Enclosed with this form, you are required to provide a letter from your financial institution on official letterhead along with a bank statement verifying the amount of funds. In addition, if your spouse or children will be included in your visa request, you must provide proof of support of an additional \$3,000.00 U.S. Dollars per person. Complete the information requested below and attach all supporting documents. Only original, signed documents will be accepted.

Applicant's Name: _____

First Middle Last

Date of Birth: _____ (mm/dd/yy)

Permanent Foreign Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

Local U.S. Mailing Address _____

Will a spouse and/or children be included on your visa? Yes No

If yes, please provide the information below: (An additional \$3,000.00 is required).

Name	Relationship	Date of Birth	Country of Birth	Country of Citizenship

Certification

I certify that I will be able to meet all my living and school expenses during the entire time that I attend Indian River State College and have \$17,000 (Associate Degree) or \$20,000 (Bachelor's Degree) available for each year of study, plus an additional allowance of \$3,000.00 per dependent/spouse. I certify that the information provided on this form is correct and complete.

Applicant/ Student Signature _____ Date _____



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
Affidavit of Financial Support Information

Indicate the source and amount of funds available.

\$ _____ PERSONAL FUNDS - Submit a bank statement and a letter on official letterhead from the bank attesting to these funds. *Liquid Assets required

\$ _____ SCHOLARSHIP - If you have a scholarship or financial support from an organization, we will need a letter of financial guarantee. The letter must state the amount of support and period of coverage.

\$ _____ FAMILY OR OTHER SUPPORT - Submit a bank statement and a letter on official letterhead attesting to these funds. You must provide the following statement signed by the person who will be responsible for your expenses while you are at IRSC. *Liquid Assets required

This is to certify that I have read the information furnished by the student listed above and that I am willing and able to support him/her while studying at IRSC. I certify that I have \$17,000 U.S. dollars (Associate Degree) or \$20,000 U.S. dollars (Bachelor's Degree) available each year for support of this student. Enclosed is a letter from my bank and a bank statement verifying that adequate funds are available. ALL FUNDS MUST BE IN U.S. DOLLARS.

1. Name of Sponsor/Guarantor: _____

Please Print

Amount of support I will provide _____ U.S. Dollars

Signature of Sponsor/Guarantor: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

2. Name of Sponsor/Guarantor: _____

Amount of support I will provide _____ U.S. Dollars

Signature of Guarantor: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Note: Each sponsor/guarantor must provide a bank statement or other document on official letterhead verifying the amount of funds. *Liquid Assets- Legal tender, cash or any type of asset that can be easily and efficiently converted into cash; money deposited into savings or checking accounts and most money market accounts are considered to be liquid assets. Financial documents that will not be accepted include: annual salary statements, real estate, investments, stocks or other accounts from which money cannot be withdrawn.



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
Health Insurance Compliance Form**

F-1 International Students will not be cleared to register or permitted to continue enrollment at Indian River State College without demonstrating that they have adequate medical insurance coverage. We do not require a minimum amount of insurance coverage; however, students must demonstrate adequate medical insurance coverage including, but not limited to major medical expenses, hospital room and board, physician visits, surgery, illness, accidental injury, medical evacuation and repatriation.

I UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS IS THAT I HOLD MEDICAL INSURANCE. IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THIS REGULATION I HAVE PURCHASED THE FOLLOWING INSURANCE POLICY.

Name and Address of Health Insurance Company:

Policy Number: _____ Coverage Period: _____

Include copy of medical insurance coverage from health insurance company

NOTICE TO IRSC STUDENT:

I certify that I have read and understood the regulations concerning insurance coverage and that I am in compliance with this regulation. I realize that I must continue to do so as long as I am an F-1 Visa student at Indian River State College. I further certify that the information given is complete and accurate. I understand that making false or fraudulent statements in this certification of compliance may hinder registration.

Name of Student: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
Transfer Release Form**

Instructions:

Every F-1 student who wishes to transfer from another school in the United States to Indian River State College must submit this completed form. In compliance with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations, Indian River State College will not consider your application for transfer before receiving this form.

You must complete Part I, then ask your current International Student Advisor to complete Part II and mail it to Indian River State College at the address listed below.

Part I (to be completed by applicant):

Applicant's name: _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth: _____

I-94 Admission No.: _____ Current Immigration Status: _____

I intend to transfer: Fall _____ Spring _____ Sum I _____ Sum II _____ Year _____

I hereby authorize my current school to provide Indian River State College with the information listed below:

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Part II (to be completed by Designated School Official (DSO) or Responsible Officer (RO) :

1. To the best of my knowledge, the above named individual is in lawful status with USCIS.
Yes _____ No _____

If no, explain: _____

2. If J-1 student, to the best of my knowledge, this student is subject to the two-year residence requirement.
Yes _____ No _____

3. Indicate any dates of authorized practical training: _____

4. Student has been involved in disciplinary action: Yes _____ No _____ SEVIS Release Date _____

If yes, explain: _____

International Advisor's Name: _____ Title: _____

Institution: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Email: _____

**Indian River State College • International Student Office
3209 Virginia Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Phone: (772) 462-7784 / Fax: (772) 462-4699**

Academic Requirements

Registration: You must be registered full-time each Fall and Spring semesters as defined by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

- **Full-time Enrollment** – Pursuing a full course of study is one of the cornerstones of maintaining F-1 status; you must continue to pursue and maintain a full course of study throughout the entire time under an F-1 student status. If you are *not* enrolled full-time, we are required to report to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) immediately. This may impact your continuing eligibility for a student visa and continued enrollment.
Fall (August) and Spring (January) Semesters – Minimum 12 credits.
Summer 1 – optional/ **Summer 2** - optional (unless you have been admitted to IRSC for the summer term or you are completing your degree by the end of a summer term).
- **Withdraw** – If you withdraw, fail to maintain full-time status or otherwise terminate or interrupt your course of studies without first obtaining approval, you will be considered under the regulations to be “out-of-status”. Immigration only allows withdrawals under specific reasons. If you need to withdraw below the required hours, contact us. You may or may not be eligible to withdraw below the required amount of credit hours legally.
- **Online Classes** – Only 3 credit hours of distance learning or online education courses may count towards the fulfillment of your full-time enrollment requirement for each semester.
- Maintain good academic standing and make satisfactory progress towards completing your degree.

Rules and Regulations

Federal regulations require that you notify /report to the IRSC International Counselor/Advisor of the following:

- **Extension of I-20** – Do not let your I-20 expire. If you need an extension on the I-20, you should contact us in a timely manner before the expiration date. If your I-20 expires, you will be out of legal status. It is your responsibility to check the I-20 form.
- **F-1 Visa** – If your Student Visa expires while you are in the United States, you may remain in the U.S. as long as you are in valid F-1 student status; you should update the visa the next time you travel to your home country.
- **Updates** – Notify us of any address, phone or email changes and/or your dependent(s) changes.
- Termination of your studies for any reason
- Failure to enroll in or a drop below full-time enrollment (12 credit hours) during any semester, except summer terms.
- Change in your program of study
- Transfer to another institution
- Desire Optional Practical Training, Off or On Campus Employment
- Criminal activity – Criminal commissions or convictions may have an impact on the student’s immigration status.

Important Documents

- **Passport** – Document issued by a national government which certifies, for the purpose of international travel, the identity and nationality of its holder. **Note:** You must possess a passport that is valid at all times. You should renew your passport six months prior to the expiration date at your country's Consulate in the United States or in your country.
- **F-1 Visa** – This visa reflects the status given to an International Student who wishes to enter the U.S. temporarily for the sole purpose of study. **Note:** If your F-1 Student Visa expires while you are in the United States, you may remain in the U.S. as long as you are in valid F-1 student status; you should update the visa the next time you travel to your home country.
- **I-94 – Arrival/Departure Record** – The Arrival/Departure Record, in either paper or electronic format, issued by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer to foreign visitors entering the United States. This documents your legal status, your initial entry date and port of entry. It should note F-1 and D/S (Duration of Status).
- **I-20 - (Certificate of Eligibility Form)** – Three page document issued by the school through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) which allows you to obtain the F-1 student visa status to attend a school in the United States. It includes specific information such as program beginning and end dates and tracking number for the student and program. The I-20 is issued for two years, you may be given an extension on the I-20 dates if needed as long as you are continuously enrolled. **Note:** The third page of the I-20 includes the Travel signature and should be signed by the Counselor/Advisor - Designated School official; the signature is valid for one year. It is your responsibility to check to make sure the signature is still valid. You will not be allowed to travel without your I-20 or be allowed re-entry if the signature has expired.
- **SEVIS Number** – The number at the top of the barcode on the first page of the SEVIS I-20 beginning with the letter “N”. This number is generated by the SEVIS System and is unique to you for an initial I-20. **SEVIS Fee Requirement** – As of September 1, 2004, F-1, F-3, J-1, M-1 or M-3 visa applicants are required to pay a one-time fee of \$200 to the Department of Homeland Security before you can be issued the student visa status to study in the United States. The fee is valid from the time you are issued the status until the time you change status, fall out of status or leave the United States for more than five (5) months. The fee can be paid online or by mail using Form I-901. To pay online, go to www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/ and follow the on-screen instructions; complete the form and pay the \$200 fee. Make sure you keep copies of all transactions and print a copy of the online receipt.
- **Admission Number** – When you enter the U.S., the Citizenship and Immigration Services issues each student a unique eleven (11) digit number. This number is used to track the student's arrivals, departures, program of study, permission to work, and other circumstances.

The above documents must be provided to the International Student Counselor/Advisor when you arrive at the College. You will not be cleared to register until these items are received.

WELCOME TO THE RIVER!

Academic Programs

IRSC offers a wide arrange of degree programs, including Baccalaureate, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science Degree programs. The College strives to provide its students with a maximum of educational choices; programs are offered not only for students who wish to pursue a Bachelor's Degree program, but also for students who wish to pursue careers immediately upon completion of Associate Degree programs. With its community in mind, IRSC provides a comprehensive and diverse curriculum for students who want to take classes to expand their interests and enhance job skills. The Division of Arts & Sciences, Communications & Social Sciences, Advanced Technology, Business Technology, Health Sciences, Public Service Education, Industrial Educational and Developmental Education emphasize academic excellence combined with real world experience, providing IRSC graduates with outstanding preparation for 21st Century careers.

Admissions to Specialized Programs

There are programs that require selective admissions procedures beyond the general admission to the College. These programs also have deadlines for admission applications (see the IRSC Academic Calendar). The programs with additional requirements and specialized procedures include, but are not limited to the following: Associate Degree Nursing, Dental Lab Technology and Management, Dental Hygiene, Emergency Medical Services Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography and Respiratory Care. Most programs have pre-requisite general education coursework that must be completed prior to admission and entry tests that will be used for admission selection. Students may be required to wait up to one year before being admitted to a selective admission program. Consult Educational Services concerning specific program requirements.

Placement Testing

According to Florida Statutes, some degree-seeking students are required to take a College Placement Test, while others are exempt. Students who entered 9th grade in a Florida public school in the 2003-2004 school year or after and earned a Florida standard high school diploma, or students serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Services are exempt. All other degree-seeking students are required to take acceptable placement tests such as the P.E.R.T. (Postsecondary Education Readiness Test), SAT or ACT. Students who present ACT scores of Reading 19, English 17, Math 19, or SAT scores of Writing/Verbal 440, Math 440 or higher may be exempt from taking the P.E.R.T. (Postsecondary Education Readiness Test). The P.E.R.T. is an untimed computer adaptive test, it provides information about Reading comprehension, English and Mathematics skills. These tests help to determine the most appropriate courses for each student. The placement test is offered daily at each campus. Students whose scores indicate that success is unlikely in the college level courses will be placed in developmental courses in English, Reading or Math. This may extend a student's enrollment by an additional semester or more. Placement scores are valid for two years.

Registration

Registration for classes may be completed online at www.irsc.edu, at the Educational Services Division on Main Campus or at any IRSC campus. Students must have a current application for admission on file, a valid major code and no outstanding holds in order to register. Registration is not complete until all fees are paid. Online Registration may be done using your assigned Student ID and Pin Number.

Student Success Plans

Degree seeking students are assigned an advisor once their transcripts and supporting documents are received. A Student Success Plan will outline courses to be taken each semester. Advisor assignments are based on your home campus indicated at the time you applied to IRSC. Students will meet with their assigned advisor to create a Student Success Plan that outlines courses needed for their degree. Students may view this plan online and use it to complete online registration each semester.

English Proficiency

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of International Students whose native language is not English. Applicants must submit an official score report. A minimum total score of 500 (paper-based), 173 (computer-based), or 61 (Internet-based) is required. Scores are valid for two years. Sufficient command of the English language is considered essential for success in a college-level program at Indian River State College. If there is any doubt about the applicant's command of English, he or she should arrange to attend an English Language Institute before seeking admission to Indian River State College. **IRSC is not an English Language Institute.**

Orientation

International Student Orientation is an excellent way to get acquainted with fellow students and the IRSC Campus. Orientation will familiarize you with the policies and procedures for the College as well as Immigration policies and procedures with regards to your F-1 Student Visa, admissions process, scholarships, registration, testing, various degree programs and other useful information. You should attend an Orientation session scheduled at the beginning of each semester. For your convenience, you may view the Orientation information online prior to attending Orientation. You will be registered for an Orientation Session the first time you meet with your counselor/advisor.

New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation (NSO) is designed to familiarize the student with all of the available college resources at IRSC. Informative and engaging, New Student Orientation provides the student with all the tools necessary for success and is an admission requirement for all first time in college students seeking a degree and new transfer students. Orientation is designed to ensure successful transition into the college environment and familiarity with the various services, amenities and opportunities available at Indian River State College. You have two options to complete New Student Orientation, either complete orientation as an online class or attend one face-to-face orientation session. You will not be cleared to register until you complete New Student Orientation.

Student Email

New students must activate their free RiverMail (email) account. The RiverMail system is the official means of electronic communication for student information. Students should check their account regularly for important registration and student services updates. *(RiverMail is a resource of Indian River State College for instructional and educational use and is not authorized for commercial purposes or any use that degrades system capacity).*

Housing

On-Campus – The IRSC Foundation maintains a student residence complex within walking distance from the Main Campus in Fort Pierce. With 24-hour security, “The River Hammock” provides an atmosphere conducive to educational pursuits. Apartments feature a central living area, dining room and kitchen. Four individual bedrooms with two full baths assure your privacy and an environment conducive to studying. A complete kitchen appliance package, central heat and air conditioning, telephone and cable TV outlets, are a few of the many amenities. Limited space is available and students need to apply in advance of their enrollment period. Additional information about the River Hammock can be obtained at www.irscfoundation.org. Click on **Students** and then **Student Housing**. You may also contact the IRSC Housing Office at (772) 462-7246.

Off-Campus – Some students prefer the independence of living off campus. You should exercise care and caution in selecting the right apartment or house. When choosing an apartment you should consider its cost, proximity to campus and safety. Students should search online to locate apartment complexes or houses for rent located nearby the IRSC campus.

Transportation

Students must provide their own transportation to the College. Housing accommodations within walking distance of the College are limited and there is limited public bus transportation in the area.

Driver License: You must have a valid Florida driver license to drive. Go online to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to make an appointment and to get information on the documents required to obtain a drivers license or identification card.

Parking and Driving on Campus

- **Decals** – All vehicles must have an IRSC parking decal to park on campus. Students using the IRSC Main Campus parking facilities are required to obtain and affix a student parking decal sticker on the left side of rear bumper or rear window of their vehicle. Decals can be obtained free of charge and can be picked up at the Student Affairs Office located in the River Commons Building.
- **Reserved Parking** –Reserved Parking is for full-time faculty, staff and administration; these spaces are not for student use. Our security officers ticket illegally parked cars.
- Student parking is available throughout the campus in the non-reserved areas.
- Students may park in a designated RESERVED parking space after 5:00 p.m. or on a Saturday or Sunday.
- Handicapped parking is conveniently located throughout the campus, including all major lots. You must have a state-issued handicapped tag to park in these spaces.

Emergency Contacts

The general emergency number in the United States is **911**. You can use this number anywhere in the United States to reach the police or fire department and to call for emergency medical services, like an ambulance.

- **IRSC Emergency Contacts** – On the Main Campus in Fort Pierce, call ext. 7777 from any campus phone or call 462-4755 to reach the on-duty Campus Security Officers.
- **Code Blue Phones** – Code Blue phones are located on each campus. The two options are **HELP** in the case of an emergency and **INFO** for directions.

Traveling and Re-entry

If you wish to travel outside the U.S., you must obtain the signature of the International Student Advisor/Counselor on the third page of your I-20 Form *prior* to your departure in order to return to the U.S. This signature is valid for **1 year**. If you fail to obtain the proper signature, you may have difficulty in returning to the U.S., and will have to follow additional procedures through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

Before you leave the United States:

- I-20 Form – Signature on third page is valid for one year. If any information has changed, you will need to update. Check the expiration date. You will not be allowed to travel without your I-20 Form.
- Valid Passport – Check the expiration date; should be valid at a minimum 6 months beyond your expected date of re-entry into the U.S.

Re-entering the United States:

- Valid Passport – Check the expiration date; should be valid at a minimum 6 months beyond your expected date of re-entry into the U.S.
- Valid Visa – Ensure that your F-1 Visa is still valid. If your visa has expired, you will need to apply for a new visa while you are abroad.
- I-20 Form – Signature on third page is valid for one year. If any information has changed, you will need to update. Check the expiration date. You will not be allowed re-entry into the U.S. if the travel signature has expired.
- Proof of funding and registration may be required as well.

Types of Employment

- **On-Campus Work** – As long as you are in active F-1 status, you are eligible to work on campus up to 20 hours per week during the Spring and Fall semesters. You may work additional hours if you wish during vacation periods and academic breaks.
- **Off-Campus Work** – Working off campus requires special authorization and is available only in certain situations. You must be in F-1 status for at least one academic year. You will be out of status if you work without authorization.
- **Optional Practical Training** – Immigration Authorized Employment; students may engage in temporary employment for practical training in their field of study. Consult with the International Student Advisors/Counselor for information; typically after completion of studies.

- **Economic Hardship** – Students may apply for permission to accept off-campus employment authorized only by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. This type of employment is for students who are in need of employment due to severe financial need caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. Supporting documents should accompany the request. Only the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services can grant this type of employment.

In order to maintain valid F-1 status, a student must NOT work in the United States, unless the employment is specifically authorized under Immigration regulations. Working without proper authorization constitutes illegal employment, an offense that can lead to deportation.

Social Security

A Social Security Number (SSN) is a nine-digit number issued to U.S. Citizens, permanent residents, and temporary (working) residents, used for tax purposes only. Only those who have authorized employment are eligible for a Social Security Number. Only then should you visit the Social Security Office to request a Social Security Number. You will need to meet with the International Student Advisor/Counselor for the documents needed to bring with you to the Social Security Office. You do not need a Social Security Number to: open a bank account, rent an apartment, open a utility account, set up a cell phone account or receive a driver license.

Tax Issues for F-1 Visa Students

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) divides aliens into residents and nonresidents for tax purposes. These rules are different than USCIS rules governing immigration status. Generally speaking, aliens who are in the United States for more than 183 days in any three-year period are considered resident aliens for tax purposes and are taxed in the same way as U.S. residents. To find information about U.S. income taxes for nonimmigrant students, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov to answer tax questions for foreign students.

Support Services

- **Student Success Services** – A one-stop center to assist you with registration, academic advising, and career exploration. Cross-trained staff are available to assist you with all your academic needs. Located in the W- Building, Main Campus.
- **Career and Transition Services** – Assists students and alumni in effectively developing, evaluating and implementing their career plans. Services include: workshops, job fairs, career forums, career counseling, resume assistance, job searches and career exploration/assessments.
- **Libraries** – The IRSC libraries have a range of publications and resources to help guide you with your research needs. Go to www.irsc.edu and click on Libraries for a list of libraries by campus location.
- **Testing** – The Assessment Services Center offers testing services to IRSC students. Tests include: Placement Tests, exams for online courses, Health Science entrances exams, etc. Located in the W Building, Room 109, Main Campus and available at all IRSC campuses.
- **Tutoring** – An Academic Support Center (ASC) is located at each IRSC campus. A number of resources are available to assist students in areas such as English, reading, math and science with diagnostic/prescriptive work based on appropriate assessments.

Campus Services

- **Bookstore** – The River Shop is the local bookstore serving the students, faculty and staff. Staff is available to assist students in selecting textbooks by using their class schedules. Located in the Koblegard Student Union Building, Main Campus.
- **Health and Wellness Center** – Provides a variety of health information services, basic first aid, crisis counseling, and support groups. Located in the U Building, Main Campus.
- **IRSC Mail Room** – Offers postal services; sells stamps, weighs packages, priority and parcel post. Residents of the River Hammock receive their mail through the mailroom. Located in the Koblegard Student Union Building, Main Campus.
- **River Café** – Offers breakfast and lunch menus for students, faculty and staff. Located in the Koblegard Student Union Building, Main Campus.
- **RiverMail** – New students must activate their free RiverMail (email) account. The RiverMail system is the official means of electronic communication for student information. Students should check their account regularly for important registration and student services updates.

Student Life

- **Athletics** – Our Intramural Sports program offers a variety of sports including: volleyball, basketball, racquetball and tennis. For more information contact the Health and Wellness Center.
- **Clubs** – Participation in club activities allows students with diverse backgrounds and interests to share ideas and experiences in a global learning environment. IRSC currently has over 55 student clubs on campus that cover a wide range of interests. Contact Student Activities located in the River Commons Building, Main Campus.
- **Fitness Center** – The Weight Training and Exercise Room provides you with the most advanced exercise equipment. It includes a full range of nautilus and universal weight equipment. All students are eligible for services at no charge.
- **Shows** – The Fine Arts play a vital role at IRSC. Those who appreciate theater, comedy and musical performance will want to catch the McAlpin OnStage shows in the Wynne Black Box Theatre. Contact the IRSC Box Office, Main Campus.
- **Study Abroad Programs** – Study, travel and learn abroad! IRSC offers several study and travel abroad trips each summer providing students with opportunities to earn college credits as they participate in enriching life-changing experiences.
- **Facebook** – Find IRSC on Facebook!

International Events

- Throughout the year, the College offers many interesting programs about history, cultural diversity and more. These are just a few: Black History, Cultural Diversity, Hispanic Heritage, Women's History, and Asian/Pacific American Heritage.
- **International Student Clubs** – Chinese Cultural Club, International Club, Spanish Club, German Club, Haitian Club, Latin Dance Club, Asian Cultural Club. For further information contact the office of Student Affairs - Koblegard Student Union Building, Main Campus.
- **International Week** – A week of fun-filled activities celebrating our culture and diversity. Held November of each year.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month** – An evening of music, food and dancing celebrating Hispanic Heritage. Held September of each year.

Academic Calendar

The IRSC Academic Calendar runs on a year-round basis with semesters scheduled as follows:
Refer to the current IRSC College Catalog for specific dates.

Fall Semester:	Late August - Mid December
Spring Semester:	Early January - Late April
Summer Session I:	Early May - Late June
Summer Session II:	Late-June - Early August

In order to obtain a student visa, students should submit all paperwork at least 3 to 4 months in advance of the term. The recommended deadlines for each semester are listed below:

Terms	Recommended Deadline Dates
Fall (August)	May 15th
Spring (January)	October 15th
Summer I (May)	March 1st
Summer II (June)	April 1st

Financing Your Education

Federal Financial Aid is not available to International Students. An International Student must finance his or her tuition, books, lab fees and living expenses. Payment of tuition and lab fees is required at registration for each semester. Students should be familiar with the regulations of their government about sending money to them in the United States and should make arrangements to have the necessary funds available at the appropriate times. Prior to Admissions, all applicants must submit an Affidavit of Financial Support. It is mandatory that the student have all necessary funds available by his/her family or by a sponsor who will pledge full support.

Florida linkage institutes

The Linkage Institutes were created by the Florida Legislature to assist in the development of stronger economic and social ties between Florida and strategic foreign countries. International students attending any of Florida's public universities/community colleges may be eligible to apply to be considered as residents for tuition purposes only.

Who is eligible? In order to qualify, the international student must be from one of the countries with whom Florida Linkage Institutes are established. A very important condition that students need to meet is that they are required to return home after graduation. The institutes have set criteria for the selection of such students.

Countries/Regions with whom Florida Linkage Institutes are established: Brazil, Canada, The Caribbean, People's Republic of China, Costa Rica, Eastern Europe, France, Israel, Japan, Mexico and West Africa.

How Do I Apply? If you are a citizen of one of the countries or regions eligible for exemption, and you are attending or planning to attend one of Florida's public community colleges or universities, you may be eligible to apply for an out-of-state tuition exemption, search "**Florida linkage institutes**" online for more information and to contact the Linkage Institute Director for his/her country of origin.

Scholarships: International student scholarships to study in the United States are quite limited and highly competitive. Students are encouraged to search online for “International Education Financial Aid” for possible scholarships and or financial aid. In several countries, cooperative and thrift societies are viable sources of loans for international students. Sources of financial aid are publicized exclusively in foreign language newspapers and websites that are published in the U.S. Contact the nearest educational advising center/consulate in your country for information about local sources of support. Consult the cultural section of your embassy or your ministry of education for more information. There may also be private organizations businesses, foundations and religious groups that may provide support for study in the U.S.

IRSC Foundation: The IRSC Foundation awards over \$2,500,000 in scholarships annually to deserving area students through the generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations. For more information and to apply, visit www.irscfoundation.org. Click on **STARS** or contact the Foundation Office at (772) 462-4786.

Estimated Costs: *2013-2014 Current Tuition-\$390.49 per credit (A.A., A.S., A.A.S.), \$536.04 per credit (B.S., B.A.S.). Tuition subject to change.

Costs	Associate	Bachelor
Current Tuition for 1 year Fall and Spring-12 credits each Full Time Enrollment	\$9,371.76 (\$390.49 x 24 credits)	\$12,864.96 (\$530.04 x24 credits)
Books, Supplies and Lab fees	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Room and Board (Fall& Spring)	\$3,825.00	\$3,825.00
Food /Personal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Health Insurance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Transportation	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total	\$17,196.76	\$20,689.96
Additional expenses for summer	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Per dependents/spouse allowance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00

All International Students must provide proof of finances as documentation that sufficient funds are available to attend Indian River State College, as well as to provide support for any dependents. The only expenses paid directly to the College are for tuition, lab fees and books. The actual costs vary depending upon the number of credits attempted each semester and the student’s living and transportation arrangements.

International Education is supported by the IRSC Global Initiatives Committee
Global Initiatives Purpose Statement:

- Fosters international awareness through community and scholarly activities.
- Supports and encourages understanding and appreciation of various cultures that compose the College community.
- Promotes programs and initiatives that educate, motivate and challenge students, faculty and staff.
- Pursues educational, cultural, and economic opportunities for the College to effectively engage in our dynamic global environment.

Indian River State College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, or genetic information in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Aдриене B. Jefferson
Dean of Minority Affairs/Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator
IRSC Main Campus – 3209 Virginia Ave. – Fort Pierce, FL 34981
(772) 462-7606



**International Student Office
Indian River State College
3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34981-5596**