Frequently Asked Questions for International Applicants

What is an F-1 student visa?
A U.S. State Department document that is affixed in your passport that allows entry into the U.S. during a period of time of full time study.

Do I need an F-1 student visa to study at JFK University?
The U.S. State Department requires visas for most individuals entering the U.S. If you are planning to study in the U.S. and are a citizen of a country other than Canada you probably will require an F-1 visa. Please refer to the U.S. government Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html for question number 2.

What if I get denied for a visa and miss my start date?
Most visa denials are soft denials that provide you with an opportunity to return to the U.S. Consulate/Embassy office for another interview. Many of the programs at JFK University have rolling admissions which allows you to defer your start date to a future term. An official offer of admission is valid for up to one year.

Common reasons for visa denial include inadequate proof of intent to return to your home country after studies, insufficient documentation including financial documents, English proficiency, or university sponsored documents (I-20, acceptance letter).

What is an I-20 and how long does it take to get one?
This is a USCIS (Immigration) certification of eligibility document issued by the University that indicates F-1 status to remain in the U.S. as a full time student.

Once an applicant has been accepted to the University it generally takes two weeks to receive an I-20.

Am I required to show proof of financial support?
Yes. You are required to show adequate funds for the first academic year of study. These can include your personal funds, the funds of a sponsor, or a combination of both. Bank documents must be issued within the last six months.

How much is tuition and when is it due?
Tuition is due when you register for classes each quarter. Tuition rates vary by program and are subject to increase, typically at the rate of inflation. Master’s level programs are currently $635 per academic unit and bachelor’s level programs are $465 per academic unit.

Are there other fees besides tuition?
Yes, minor additional fees include an application, student association, and technology fee. Course materials are also extra.

Do you offer any scholarships or financial aid?
There are a variety of scholarships available from the University for a limited number of students. Financial aid in the form of U.S. government loans is available only to U.S. Citizens and U.S. Permanent Residents.

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Is there an application deadline?
The application deadline is three months prior to the start date of each term.

Some programs have different application deadlines including Museum Studies, Doctor of Psychology, and Juris Doctor programs. Please contact International Admissions at isa@jfku.edu for additional information.

Is there a separate international application for admission?
International students are required to submit further documentation in addition to the University’s general application available at www.jfku.edu. Please contact International Admissions for more information.

Is TOEFL or IELTS required?
Proof of English proficiency is required of all international students whose native language is not English. The minimum TOEFL requirement for most academic programs is 80 internet-based with the exception of Museum Studies which is 100 internet-based, and the minimum IELTS score is 6 with no band lower than 5.5, with Museum Studies a score of 7 with no band lower than 6.5. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What is the TOEFL code for JFK University?
The School code is 4365; the department code is 00.

Is the GMAT/GRE required for graduate (Master’s) programs?
No, it is not required. However if you have taken one of these exams it may benefit you to provide it.

Do I need letters of recommendation or a personal essay? Are there any additional admission requirements?
Some programs require students to submit a personal essay, letters of recommendation, an academic writing sample, and an art portfolio. Each student must interview with faculty before being accepted into the University.

To review the program requirements visit our website: http://www.jfku.edu/Programs-and-courses.cfm. Click the degree title under the program of interest and then click the Application Requirements pdf form under “Related Downloads.”

Can I defer my offer of admission?
Admission can be deferred by up to one year from the original application term.

What are “official transcripts?” Are they required?
“Official transcripts” are transcripts issued directly from an institution in an unopened, sealed envelope that contains an official stamp, seal or signature on the outside flap of the envelope. Official transcripts must be submitted before you start class.

Do I need a transcript evaluation by an approved credential evaluation service company?
A transcript evaluation by an approved credential evaluation service showing course-by-course and lower/upper division detail is required for an application to a bachelor’s degree or law program in which the undergraduate units have been earned outside of the United States. Evaluations for Master’s applicants are only required when equivalency cannot be determined by the International Admissions Advisor.

Can I work while I am studying?
Yes, however it is important to keep in mind that employment is a complex and detailed area for international students. There are three categories of work: campus work, curricular work (CPT), and optional work (OPT). All three categories allow you to work no more than 20 hours per week during a course of study. Campus work can start upon arrival to school. There is a nine month waiting period for the other two categories. OPT can be saved until after graduation and will extend the F-1 status for one full year if you find a job related to your field.

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What are my housing options?
You have the opportunity to live with an American family close to campus through JFK University’s home stay program affiliations. In addition, rentals of apartments and houses are readily available in areas surrounding the campuses.

Do I need medical or health insurance?
Yes, students are required to show proof of health insurance coverage before registration opens for their second term. The Office of International Education can assist you with this process.

Are special advising and assistance offered for international students?
The Office of Student Affairs provides international students with information on immigration, travel, work authorizations, housing, student activities, English support, and much more. The University’s academic support staff offers free services to all students including writing support, career services, academic skills assessments, and various academic workshops.