

## *International Student Applicant FAQ's*

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### **1.) Can I study ESL at Brookdale on an F-1 student visa?**

Brookdale does not offer a full-time, intensive English language program. Therefore, F-1 students must be enrolled in a full-time, degree-seeking program. F-1 students who have been accepted to Brookdale can enroll in ESL courses should they need additional language assistance. Persons wishing to enroll in ESL courses who do not require an F-1 visa can:

- 1.) Submit the BCC application, 2.) Take the ESL placement exam, and 3.) Register for ESL classes.

### **2.) When will I receive my acceptance?**

Once a student has submitted a complete application with all supporting documents and materials, the International Education Center (IEC) staff can make a determination of acceptance within a few weeks. The student will be contacted by the IEC if additional materials are requested or with an official letter of acceptance and an I-20.

### **3.) Can I begin my studies at Brookdale during the summer term?**

International students are only admitted for the fall and spring semesters.

### **4.) What kind of programs can I study?**

Federal regulations require students in F-1 status to be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours) each semester. Therefore, applicants requesting an I-20 form for F-1 status will only be admitted to career or transfer degree programs. Although International Students can take courses towards certificate programs as a supplement to their degree program, they will not be issued an I-20 form for such.

### **5.) What is the difference between a Transfer and Career Program?**

Transfer programs are two year programs equivalent to the first two years of a Bachelor's degree; these programs enable students to continue their studies at a four year institution. Career programs are two year degrees which prepare the student for the workforce immediately after completing their studies.

**6.) I did my application and received a letter of acceptance from Brookdale, am I officially accepted?**

Students who submit the [Brookdale Admissions Application](#) will automatically receive a "Red" acceptance letter from the Registrar's Office, which provides student identification number and instructions on academic registration. However, this letter does not complete the admissions process for students who wish to acquire F-1 status. Applicants for F-1 status must also complete [supplementary forms and submit additional supporting documents](#) to the International Education Center (IEC). Once all materials have been received, you will receive an official letter of acceptance and the I-20 form from the International Education Center, signed by the IEC Director or Coordinator.

**7.) Can I work while I study?**

Students may be eligible in some cases to work during their studies. Information regarding working while in F-1 status can be found on the [Forms and Links website](#).

**8.) Is there housing on campus?**

Brookdale Community College does not have on-campus housing. Most international students reside with family members in Monmouth County. Applicants who do not have a local resident to provide room and board may apply to [IHPS homestay program](#) for placement with an American family. Although the IEC does not provide assistance in searching for or securing such housing, international students may be able to find apartment housing in nearby towns.

**9.) Can I take classes online?**

Students must take at least 9 hours of classes on a Brookdale campus and then may take 3 or more hours of online classes.

**10.) Can I study part-time at Brookdale?**

F-1 students must be enrolled in a full course of study (12 credit hours). Individuals who do not require F-1 status can generally directly enroll in the school to take a course or two, although they should always make sure this does not violate their current immigration status.

**11.) What is a Social Security number and what if I do not have one?**

A social security number (SSN) is a nine digit number issued to US citizens, permanent residents, and temporary (working) residents for tax purposes. Unless you have previously worked in the United States and have applied for a SSN, students will not have a number and should leave this blank on their application.

**12.) Should I put my foreign address or address in the USA on my admission application?**

If currently outside of the USA, prospective F-1 students should list their foreign address on the admission application. Upon arrival students are required to update their address with the IEC and with the Registrar's Office.

**13.) How long will it take me to complete my program of study at Brookdale?**

The International Education Center provides students 2.5 years to complete their program requirements, although in many cases students finish in two years. The amount of time students actually need to complete their studies can be affected by many factors such as transferring foreign credentials, class scheduling conflicts, limited course offerings

during the given semester, the need for additional preparatory courses, etc. Be aware some programs of study such as Nursing and Rad Tech can have waiting times of up to 2 years just to *begin* the program. Even if they have finished all of their preparatory courses, students who on waiting lists must still be enrolled in full-time.

**14.) What is the Immunization Record Form and how do I complete it?**

Students have a variety of options regarding immunizations. 1.) If you HAVE already received the immunizations, you can mail a copy of the doctor's record to the International Education Center and then show the original copy in the Health Services Office upon commencing your studies at Brookdale *OR* you can return to where you received your immunizations and have the doctor fill out the Immunization form on the BCC Admissions Application. 2.) If you HAVE NOT received the immunizations, students can obtain the immunizations at a clinic or at a doctor's office and then have the doctor fill out the form at that time *OR* students can obtain the immunizations here at the Brookdale Health Services Office before commencing their studies (This is generally a cheaper and more convenient option for many.) Students will be considered for admission to the college without providing immunization records, but they must submit records to the Health Services Office or receive the immunizations there *BEFORE* commencing their studies at BCC.

**15.) Are scholarships or financial aid available international students?**

Students in F-1 status are not eligible to apply for Federal Financial Aid or Brookdale Scholarships. They may participate in the tuition payment plan. More information on this can be found at:  
[http://www.brookdalecc.edu/pages/526.asp#tuition\\_payment\\_plan](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/pages/526.asp#tuition_payment_plan)