

## F-1 Student Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

Yes! Brookdale offers seven levels of ESL, from beginning to advanced.

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

Once you have 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. You will be contacted by the IEC if additional materials are requested, or with an official letter of acceptance and an I-20 form.

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

International students are only admitted for the fall and spring semesters. As a continuing student at Brookdale, you will have the option to take classes during the summer or winter term, even though this is not required.

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

You can choose from nearly 70 degree programs which can be found in our online catalog at <http://catalog.brookdalecc.edu/>

**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. Transfer programs enable you to continue your studies at a four-year institution. Career programs are two-year degrees which prepare you for the workforce immediately after completing your studies.

**6.) I did my Brookdale application and received a letter of acceptance from Brookdale. Is that all I need to be accepted?**

When you submit the Brookdale Admissions Application, you will automatically receive an acceptance letter from the Registrar's Office, which provides a student identification number and instructions on your academic registration. However, this letter does not complete the admissions process if you have F-1 status or wish to acquire it. Applicants for F-1 status must also provide supplementary forms and submit additional supporting documents to the International Education Center (IEC) at the following link: [www.brookdalecc.edu/international](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/international). 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 an IEC staff member.

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

You may be eligible in some cases to work during your studies. Information regarding working while in F-1 status can be found on our webpages for current students at [www.brookdalecc.edu/international](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/international).

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

Brookdale Community College does not have on-campus housing. Most F-1 students reside with family members in Monmouth County or arrange their own apartment housing. Applicants who do not have a local resident to provide room and board may apply to IHPS Homestay Program at <http://www.ihpshomestays.com/> or Sara's Homestay at <https://sarahomestay.com/> for placement with an American family. Students can also search for independent housing through [www.apartmentsearch.com](http://www.apartmentsearch.com) or [www.forrentuniversity.com](http://www.forrentuniversity.com).

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

You must take at least 9 credit hours face-to-face, and then may take 3 or more credit hours online.

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

You must be enrolled in a full course of study (12 credit hours) in order to maintain F-1 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 employment purposes. Unless you have previously worked in the United States and have applied for a SSN, you will not have a SSN and you should leave this blank on your application.

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

If currently outside of the USA, you should list your foreign address on the admission application. Upon arrival, you will be required to update your 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 you with 2.5 years to complete your program requirements. The amount of time you actually need to complete your studies can be affected by many factors such as transferring foreign credits, the need for ESL or additional preparatory courses, etc. Be aware some programs of study in allied Health fields have lengthy waiting lists.

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

Students have a variety of options regarding immunizations. 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 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.

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

Brookdale does not have international student scholarships and F-1 status students are not eligible to apply for Federal Financial Aid. However, you are eligible to participate in the tuition payment plan at [www.afford.com](http://www.afford.com). You may also be eligible to apply for a private student loan from your home country or from the U.S. For more information on student loans, visit <https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/international/>.

**16.) Is there public transportation to Brookdale?**

The NJ Transit No. 833 bus between Red Bank and Freehold stops regularly at the Lincroft campus. The route runs between the Freehold Bus Terminal and the Red Bank Train Station, with departure and arrival times coordinated with the North Jersey Coast trains. View the complete 833 schedule in PDF format on the NJ Transit website at [www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com).

**17.) How much will my program cost?**

Students taking credit courses at Brookdale are assessed at a per credit tuition rate. F-1 students are required to be enrolled in 12 credits per semester and are assessed by the out-of-state tuition rate. Current rates can be found at [www.brookdalecc.edu/tuition-fees](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/tuition-fees).

