



Western International University™

Where success is highly individualized.

## **International Operations Department Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Q Why study in the United States?**

**A** Students have varied reasons for studying in the United States such as:

- Learning more about American culture and improving English language skills
- Enhancing global business knowledge
- Receiving international work experience through an Optional Practical Training (OPT) program

### **Q What does Western International University have to offer international students?**

**A** Following just are just a few examples of the many benefits international students have by studying at WIU:

- A tailored education plan to help you achieve your educational goals
- Monthly start dates that allow you to begin classes right away
- A dedicated [International Operations Department](#) that is available to assist you
- A strong emphasis on practical methods of instruction which will prepare you to enter the workforce
- Faculty with current business experience who will provide instruction using latest industry practices
- [WIU International Friends](#), a student group, provides a forum where you can participate in activities such as professional development, seminars, and group excursions
- An alumni association where you will have the opportunity to network with graduates

### **Q What does WIU look for in an ideal candidate?**

**A** Students must demonstrate strong academic performance, an ability to handle the minimum course load, and a high level of oral and written English proficiency.

### **Q What if I do not meet the English proficiency requirements?**

**A** Students requiring additional English language instruction are recommended to take intensive English courses at a language school prior to applying to WIU. For more information regarding English language courses and English proficiency requirements, please consult with an Enrollment Counselor.

### **Q What is a typical class meeting like?**

**A** One of WIU's most marked characteristics is the personal attention it provides to students. The average class size is 20 students. You should expect an intimate discussion setting that makes heavy use of both practical and theoretical methods of instruction.

**Q What is the anticipated course load?**

**A** Most students will take one 3-credit course during each two-month session. Undergraduate students on an F-1 visa must complete a minimum of 24 credits per academic year; graduate students on an F-1 visa must complete a minimum of 18 credits per academic year. An academic year is 12 months in length and begins the first month a student reports to WIU on an F-1 visa.

**Q Can I take classes at more than one campus?**

**A** Yes. Please be mindful that course and program availability differ between the campuses. Most international students choose to study at the Main campus due to its central location and the variety of courses available per session. If you choose to attend one of the other campuses travel time and transportation will be your responsibility.

**Q Can I take online classes?**

**A** Yes, students with an F-1 visa are allowed to take one online class every six months. Each online class must be taken along with a WIU ground campus class, unless otherwise approved by the International Program Officer (IPO).

**Q Can I take vacation?**

**A** Students on an F-1 visa who have fulfilled the enrollment requirements and maintained their status for a minimum of one academic year, qualify for 60 days of annual vacation. Students interested in taking vacation are expected to contact the IPO and their Academic Counselor a minimum of two months in advance of their requested vacation date.

**Q How much should I expect to spend while studying at WIU?**

**A** Students should be financially prepared to cover their educational, living, and associated expenses. A safe estimate would be approximately \$28,000 per year.

**Q What financial aid or scholarship opportunities are available with WIU?**

**A** F-1 students are not eligible for federal financial aid and are expected to provide a financial guarantee upon application. Students are encouraged to investigate alternative financial resources. For some resources that may help you, please look at [Financial Aid Options for International Students](#).

**Q What are the employment opportunities available at WIU?**

**A** Upon completion of one academic year, students on an F-1 visa who have maintained full-time enrollment may apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). For more information about applying for OPT, please contact the IPO.

Students are also eligible to apply for internships with certain international organizations. A list of approved international organizations as well as instructions for applying can be provided by the IPO upon request.

WIU does not currently offer Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and thus is not able to offer on-campus employment to students on an F-1 visa at this time.

**Q When are the application deadlines?**

**A** WIU accepts applications on a rolling basis. It is recommended that application requirements are completed at least two months prior to the desired start date. This will allow adequate time to determine admission and prepare immigration documents.

**Q When will I receive my I-20?**

**A** Once you have been admitted to the University, the International Operations Department will review your documentation. Within 48 hours of receiving all necessary information, an I-20 and admission letter will be issued and mailed to you.

**Q How will I get my visa?**

**A** In order to enter the United States to study, international students require an F-1 visa. To obtain a visa, please complete the application requirements set forth by the United States Embassy or Consulate in your home country. A listing of US Embassies and Consulates can be found at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

**Q What are my housing options?**

**A** WIU does not provide student housing. However, WIU can provide information to students identifying suitable locations.

WIU has set-up a partnership with a Homestay program for students who wish to stay with an American host family. Information can be found at [www.azhomestay.com](http://www.azhomestay.com).

You may also check [www.rentingarizona.com](http://www.rentingarizona.com) to utilize a free rental locating service.

**Q How safe are the campuses at WIU?**

**A** WIU is strongly committed to crime prevention and to the safety of University students, faculty, and staff. The University considers the personal physical safety of its students and employees necessary for a successful learning environment. Security personnel are stationed on campus to ensure the safety of individuals and property.