

Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective F1 students

1. Does Forsyth Tech offer any scholarships or financial aid for F1 students?

F1 students are not eligible to apply for Federal Financial Aid. There are often outside organizations such as the Rotary Club that can have scholarships available. F1 students pay out-of-state tuition unless sponsored by a NC Non-Profit Organization. In that situation, documentation is required by the organization to verify that they are paying the tuition and fees for the student.

2. Can I work on campus?

Yes, however there are very limited choices for jobs on a community college campus. Students should not plan on working on campus to make money for living expenses. On campus work is the only employment allowed for F1 students.

3. Can I get an I-20 for the ESL program?

No, Forsyth Tech is not authorized to issue student visas for those studying in an ESL program. You must be in a curriculum program for an Associate Degree level in order to be considered for a visa.

4. What English tests do you accept?

We accept the TOEFL and the IELTS test. Score minimums are listed on the checklist for admission. If a student has taken college level English at a U.S. college with a C or higher, that will be sufficient to replace the test. In addition, if a student has completed a full curriculum ESL program and can submit documentation that can also replace the test. If a student is from a country where English is an official language, the TOEFL or IELTS may not be required. Please contact the Admissions office to verify if your country meets those requirements.

5. Does it change the amount of money needed for financial support verification if I am living with a family member or friend who is supporting me in my living expenses?

Yes, if a student is being provided with room and board, transportation, and personal living expenses by a friend or family member and will only have the expenses of tuition/fees/books then that can be documented on the financial support form. In that situation, the amount of money required in the bank would only need to cover tuition, fees, and books.

6. Will the school provide housing and transportation?

No, Forsyth Tech does not have any dormitories or housing options. Students must make their own living and transportation arrangements.

7. Will credits from my other colleges or universities transfer to Forsyth Tech?

If the school is outside the U.S. then the student will need to have the transcripts evaluated by an outside agency (see suggestions in the admissions checklist). Once that evaluation is received, it will be reviewed by the Records office for transfer credit. If the school is in the U.S., an official transcript must be received for the Records office to evaluate for transfer credit.

8. Do I need health insurance?

Enrollment in a health insurance plan for International Students is highly recommended. For information about insurance companies that offer plans for international students, please contact the Admissions office.

9. If I am transferring my F1 visa from another school, do I need to turn in the transfer clearance form before I can be issued a new I-20?

Some colleges will require that students provide an admissions letter to Forsyth Tech before this form will be submitted. Therefore, it does not have to be turned in as part of the required documents for admission. It will need to be submitted after you are admitted to the school and before your current school will transfer you to Forsyth Tech. Please note that Forsyth Tech will not transfer in your visa if you have fallen out of status at your current school. You must apply for reinstatement at that school before you can transfer to Forsyth Tech.

10. Can I send the documents for admission electronically or do they need to be mailed, or hand delivered?

We will accept the majority of the required documents electronically. If they are transcripts from high school or colleges or evaluations of college course work – those need to be originals. TOEFL or IELTS scores are also best sent directly from the testing centers to Forsyth Tech.

11. Will I need to take placement tests for math and English?

If you do not have college level English and Math at a U.S. school with a C or higher then you will need to take the placement test upon arrival to Forsyth Tech. This has to be completed before being able to register for classes.

12. Can I take online courses?

F1 students are required to be enrolled full time in 12 credit hours per semester (fall and spring). Only one of these courses is allowed to be online.

13. What do I do after I receive the I-20?

You would need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee by credit or debit card. www.fmjfee.com and make an appointment with your Consulate/Embassy in order to apply for the visa. Suggested items to bring to the visa interview would be: a current passport, I-20 document, admission letter from Forsyth Tech, receipt for the SEVIS I-901 fee, and financial support documents. Make sure you check with your Consulate/Embassy to determine if there are any specific items they require in addition to those listed here.

14. When can I come to the United States once I have my visa?

You are able to enter the U.S. 30 days prior to when classes begin. The date that classes begin will be listed on your I-20 document.

15. Will there be an orientation for International Students?

At Forsyth Tech, we prefer to meet with each student individually to take time to plan your course schedule for the semester and make sure you are registered for courses correctly. We are glad to discuss any questions or concerns during that meeting. In addition, we will have some group events where you can meet other current and new F1 visa students.