



Southside Christian School's International Student Program



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SCS International Student Program or “Missions in Reverse”

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Southside Christian School is applying to be a designated I-20, F-1 granting organization, approved by the Student Exchange and Visitor Information Service (SEVIS) of The Immigration Dept. of the United States.

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the International Student program at Southside is threefold:

1. To honor God by fulfilling our mission to “impact the world through the teaching of a Christ-centered curriculum in a Christ-centered environment.”
2. To encourage our academic program by bringing international, cultural perspectives into our classrooms/campus.
3. To give opportunity for international students to have a cross-cultural experience and prepare for an American college experience.

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MUST):

1. Be proficient in the English language to the degree of being able to function in the classroom without translation or continuous assistance (English proficiency tests and/or phone interview will be conducted).
2. SCS requires that all international students take the TOEFL. We require a **TOEFL score of 60 or above** for admission to Southside Christian School.
3. Have no major discipline record from the previous academic years as attested to by the parents/guardian.
4. Have complete and academically relevant transcripts, translated into English and converted to a 4.0 U.S. grading scale, verifying prior academic history/achievement.

5. Complete the student enrollment application, provide educational transcripts (both current at the time of application) and provide final/complete transcript (in English using 4.0 scale) and all requested documentation for enrollment before a student I-20 form is issued.
6. Commit to supply:
 - a. airfare for trip(s) to and from final destinations and all connections to and from the School and Host home;
 - b. sufficient funds to supply clothing, food (other than in the home), school supplies, personal supplies
 - c. International health insurance
 - d. all other necessary living items while attending Southside Christian School.
7. Understand that any major disciplinary action against the student taken by the School or host family may result in the student being removed from the program and sent back home to country of citizenship (at International Student/Family expense) and suffer revocation of the School-granted I-20 status.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND TIMELINE:

- a. Inquiry to the Admissions Office or link on the Southside Christian School website.
- b. Submit International Student Application (download from website or soon by online option).
- c. Submission of documentation stating the ability to meet all expenses for the entire year of school.
- d. Submission of completed (final) transcripts from previous schools, transcribed into English and converted to a 4.0 U.S. Grading Scale.
- e. Submission of TOEFL English Language Proficiency test results.
- f. On-campus or if needed interactive on-line video conference with the Southside Christian International Admissions Team.
- g. Submission of the following forms/documents (translated into English):
 - i. Teacher Recommendation forms.
 - ii. Up-to-date Immunization forms (NC State School Requirement).
 - iii. Copy of Certified Birth Certificate or valid Passport.
- h. Decision of Southside Christian School Administration
 - i. I-20 may be issued at this point (I-20 issuance is an acceptance to SCS, but all students are accepted on a probationary period of the first 4-6 weeks).
 - j. Southside Christian School is happy to assist with making arrangements with host families.
 - k. Once the student's F-1 Visa is secured, the student/agent notifies the International Student Coordinator's Office of visa grant and dates of arrival at Southside.
 - l. Must have financial arrangements finalized before beginning classes.

Upon Arrival in the United States

- Student reports to SCS and presents papers to PDSO.
- Provide a copy of approved International health insurance policy along with student immunization record.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT FEE:

The ISSF is intended to cover some of the increased expenses associated with the acceptance of international students into our student body. Those expenses include (but are not limited to):

1. Limited English Language support in addition to our regular curriculum.
2. Maintenance of PDSO officer to ensure compliance with Homeland Security and other regulatory agencies.
3. The administrative costs and increased communication required for the issuance of I-20 documents.
4. Costs associated with High School Fall Retreat, Athletic participation, and Field Trips.
5. Costs associated with translation/interpretation of international transcripts.
6. Costs associated with maintenance/tracking of visa status when students return to country of origin or travel internationally for vacations and school breaks.
7. Communication with host families, guardians, and parents.
8. Increased faculty support for students whose primary language is not English.
9. Other costs incurred in the process of administering, communicating, and supporting students who are far from home and usually without their primary family to support them.

International Student is defined as any student who is not a citizen of the United States and is attending SCS on a SCS issued I-20.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Family commits to tuition arrangements and begins payment via draft or payment in full.
2. International Student/Family/Agent pays for all medical needs (including over-the-counter purchases). The International Student/Family/Agent must purchase International health insurance (information on options available can be found on SCS website). Emergency related costs, doctor visits and prescription costs are the responsibility of the student and natural family.
3. The student is required to attend the host family's church (or may attend elsewhere if mutually agreed upon and transportation is provided).
4. International Students will adhere to all house rules of the host family.

HOST FAMILY EXPECTATIONS:

1. Commits to a one-year hosting of International Student.
2. Contacts student and family of student once assigned.
3. Provides a family living experience - consisting of normal family life provisions.
 - a. Food, shelter (room with ample living space and closet storage) and a loving environment.
 - b. Transportation to and from school.
 - c. If the International Student is involved in extracurricular activities, it is the host family's responsibility to provide or arrange transportation for same.
4. Provides direction/guidance to International Student in regard to the following:
 - d. Behavior – in keeping with the school's Code of Conduct.
 - e. Appearance – responsible for ensuring that the International Student knows and adheres to the school's guidelines with regard to dress.
 - f. Academics – assists the International Student with issues regarding his/her academic career – works with the Head of School, International Student Coordinator, and faculty to ensure the needs of the student are met.
5. Host families will NOT be expected to pay for things such as; clothes, school supplies personal supplies, electronics, food (other than meals at home), plane tickets and associated health costs, or travel costs (including school functions).

SENIOR TRIP GUIDELINES:

- The Senior Class Trip is the sole responsibility of the International Student/Family. The Host Family does not pay for or contribute to such trips. The purpose of the Senior trip is to serve in a mission opportunity and to build bonds of friendship within the Senior Class. In order to participate, tuition obligations must be current.