



California Flight Academy, L.L.C. (CFA) ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES AND FAQ'S FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students who enroll into programs at CFA are required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enter the United States on a Student M-1 Visa. The process to apply for the visa begins with the issuance of a Form I-20. CFA is approved by the Department of Homeland Security to issue I-20's.

The following steps are required to enroll:

Please follow these steps to enroll in CFA and obtain your Form I-20.

1. Complete the I-20 Application for your M-1 Visa – Contact your Admissions Representative
2. Pay \$500 USD partially refundable deposit.

Note:

**1 Your name must match exactly your name as it appears on your passport. *2 Your deposit will be held in your student account, (less a processing fee of \$295) to secure your enrollment date. The deposit will be applied to your tuition when you arrive.*

Processing your Form I-20 and applying for your Student M-1 Visa

How do I obtain a Form I-20?

Once your deposit has been received and processed, we will send the Form I-20 to your permanent address via FedEx. This address must be a physical address in order for the courier to deliver the package. The visa process typically takes *2 to 3 months*. To make the process more efficient for you, we will date the form I-20 with the start date at least 30 days after your requested date. Students can always be admitted 30 days prior to the start date on the form I-20, but not after the date listed on the form I-20. This procedure will eliminate the process of re-issuing you the form I-20 and will allow you enough time for your interview at the US embassy.

How do I obtain a Student M-1 Visa?

In compliance with United States immigration laws under the Department of Homeland Security, students must enter the United States on a Student M-1 Visa if they intend on studying in one of CFA's flight training programs.

Before applying for an M-1 Visa, you are required to register with the International Student and Exchange Visitor Program ("SEVIS"). You need to complete and pay \$200 for the form I-901 at the SEVIS website: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>.

Once you have received your I-20 you will need to call the U.S. Embassy in your country and make an appointment to get your M-1 Visa. Make sure that when you make the appointment that you ask what documents you need to bring with you to the visa interview.

The documents that you will need to take with you include:

- The original Form I-20 you obtained from CFA.
- A valid passport with a validity date at least 6 months beyond your intended period of stay.
- Proof of payment for the SEVIS Form I-901.
- Proof of financial certification.
- Evidence of ties in your country (spouse, children, job, home, etc.).



During your appointment, you will also have a personal interview with a U.S. Visa Officer. It is advisable that you secure an appointment for your interview at least 2 months prior to the date you plan to start your studies.

We recommend that you visit the U.S. Embassy Website. For additional information on how to apply for a student visa, go to the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate websites, a listing can be found at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) Approval Guide

Do not proceed with the TSA registration process until you have received your M-1 Student Visa. If you are unsure about TSA, please wait until you arrive to complete your application.

What is the TSA? What are non-U.S. students required to do?

The TSA oversees the security of the U.S. transportation system while ensuring the freedom of movement for people and commerce. Every person applying for flight training in the United States of America must be approved by the TSA. By beginning this process prior to your departure from your country, you may eliminate waiting time after you arrive at CFA to begin your in-flight training. We are also required to fingerprint and take photographs of non-U.S. citizens for this process, which can be done at the time of your arrival at CFA.

Non-U.S. citizens are required to register with TSA. The process consists of background checks of non-U.S. citizens prior to obtaining any of the following:

- Initial pilot certificate training
- Initial instrument training
- Initial multi-engine training
- Any training in an aircraft over 12,500 lbs.

To begin this TSA registration process, please follow the steps below:

TSA REGISTRATION

Once you have completed your embassy interview and have received your M-1 Visa, you will need to register with the TSA (If your visa is denied for any reason, you will need to contact us and we will need a copy of the denial letter). Please complete your TSA registration for your **PRIVATE PILOT** prior to arriving at our school. You will complete the other TSA training at the school after you receive your private pilot license.

(Do not proceed with the TSA registration process until you have received your M-1 Student Visa)

How do I register with TSA?

To begin this TSA registration process, please follow the steps below:

1. Log onto the TSA website at <https://www.flightschoolcandidates.gov/>.
2. Click on "Create New Student Account" in the upper right hand corner.
3. Complete the required information (please ensure that the name used matches your name as it appears in your passport). Be sure to upload your passport.
4. After you have created an account and received your password, log in and create a training request. (If you need additional assistance, please visit the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association ("AOPA") website at



http://www.aopa.org/tsa_rule/alienft.html. Additionally, our Admissions Office will help guide you through the appropriate processes if you need assistance.)

1. If attending CFA for the Commercial Pilot Program (or the Professional Pilot Program), the first course you will take is course name "Initial". The Course ID will be "02" for Private. The aircraft used in this training will be a Cessna 152, Cessna 162, Cessna 172 or PA 28-161 (Piper Warrior). Please list all these aircraft in the training request.
2. If you already have an FAA private license and are seeking an advanced rating, please use course name "Instrument" and course ID "02" for Instrument Rating. The aircraft used in this training will be a Cessna 172 or PA 28-161 (Piper Warrior). Please list all these aircraft in the training request.
3. If you already have an FAA instrument license and are seeking an advanced rating, please use course name "MEL" and course ID "02" for Multi-engine and for Commercial. The aircraft used in this training will be a Beechcraft-76. Please list all these aircraft in the training request.
4. If you already have an FAA commercial license and are seeking an advanced rating, please use course name "CFI" and course ID "02" for Certified Flight Instructor.
5. Before submitting your TSA registration, we can double check everything is correct before you submit it to TSA. Just contact Athena (acho@flycfa.com) for help. **Once submitted, it is difficult to change any errors.** It is then approved on our end and sent back to TSA where they will collect your processing fees.
6. Your FAA Medical Certificate, photos and fingerprints can be completed upon your arrival at CFA.

Additional Information and FAQ's

How do I get a Verification of Authenticity for a Foreign Pilot License?

If you are applying for a U.S. pilot certificate/rating based on a foreign license, you must submit a request of Verification of Authenticity to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") Airmen Certification Branch (AFS-760) <http://registry.faa.gov>.

Once the Airmen's Certification branch has verified the authenticity and the validity of the foreign pilot license and medical license with the foreign civil aviation authority, a verification of authenticity letter will be issued to the designated FAA Flight Standard District Office and a copy sent to the applicant.

All instructions concerning this pre-application may be found on the FAA's web site at http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/foreign_license_verification/. This process usually takes 2 to 3 months.

Is English required? Do you have English courses?

Yes, English proficiency is required to start your flight training. The international language for aviation is English at the International Civil Aviation Organization ("ICAO") level 4 or better. You need to be able to read, write and understand the English language. The US is the best place to learn or improve your English. We offer the best aviation communications course here at CFA.

How do I apply for housing?

Please state on your student application if you need accommodation. Please contact CFA at least 2 weeks prior to your arrival to let us know when you will be arriving so that we can arrange your accommodation.

What do I do about health insurance?

We highly recommend that all students carry their own health insurance. Students have the following options:

1. Possess and maintain their own health insurance plan that is accepted by U.S. health care professionals.
2. Purchase a third party insurance plan here in the U.S.



How do I get from the airport to my apartment?

We offer free airport pick up during normal business hours. Additional fees apply for after hour pickups. If you would like airport pickup, please contact us two weeks prior to your arrival. We do not pick up on the following holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, or New Year's Day. We will need your arriving flight information including the air carrier name, date, and scheduled arrival time.

Please contact your admissions representative at CFA for additional questions and information.

We look forward to meeting you,

CFA Admissions Team

(619) 448-2212