



# LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

## FINANCIAL ABILITY GUARANTEE FORM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS *Additional Instructions and Guidance*

- What is the purpose of this Financial Ability Guarantee Form?

Laws and regulations of the United States national government require foreign nationals seeking entry into the US to show reasonable proof that the US entry applicant WILL NOT:

1. Become a Public Charge to the US government or its people,
2. Stay within the US past their approved admission allowance, and
3. Seek unlawful employment within the US.

International students seeking the SEVIS I-20 form and the F-1 visa must have the financial resources to live and study in the United States. This includes being able to cover the cost of tuition, books, living expenses and travel. SEVIS **Designated School Officials (DSOs)** must collect evidence of the student's financial ability before issuing a valid, official I-20 form to an accepted student.

Additionally, prospective students must bring their evidence of financial ability when applying for their student visa with the U.S. Department of State. It is also advised to have the evidence on-hand when entering the country at a U.S. port of entry, in the event a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer asks to review it.

- Am I required to use Lamar University's Financial Ability Guarantee Form?

Lamar University does not strictly require students to exclusively use our Financial Ability Guarantee Form as their valid financial ability guarantee. Students are free to use personalized guarantee forms or letters of sponsorship from their benefactors and/or financial institutions. However, be advised that third-party forms may be considered invalid by our offices if it does not include all information needed in the student's I-20 issuance request, so it is advised to use our form when possible.

- My or my sponsor's bank refuses to use their seal/stamp and signature on the LU form. What can I do to prove my financial ability then?

If the financial institution will not directly stamp and sign our document in order to attest to the sponsor's available funding, then you should instead attach a bank statement or account balance letter from their institution to our financial ability form. That bank-issued document will be considered in place of the stamp and signature of the bank representative. Please note that the name of the bank account owner must directly and clearly match the name as given in the Sponsor section of our form.

- I'm receiving one or more funding awards from the school. How does this affect my completion of the Guarantee Form?

Our office will consider any scholarship awards that have been approved for you as a source of funding to meet your expenses. In effect, this lowers minimum requirement in what you and/or your sponsor must show in the Guarantee Form in order for you to meet the I-20 issuance threshold. Please be advised that our office is not automatically given notice from other campus offices on what scholarship awards may have been offered to you. While we will gather what we can at the time of your admissions acceptance, please know that special awards might require that you contact the office that offered you the award and request an offer letter which explains the details of that office's offer to you.

- I wish to bring my Spouse and/or Children with me to the US. What do I need to do for that?

Please complete the **Dependents section** in our Guarantee Form and input the information of the dependents you wish to bring with you. We also require scanned copies of each dependent's passport (biographical) pages, to ensure that all information entered is accurate and as expected by various US agencies who might review the information. Please also be aware that each dependent will add to the estimated expenses for the issuance of the F-1 and F-2 I-20s, and so the minimum requirement for your financial ability guarantee will increase.

- Where and how should I submit the completed Guarantee Form?

It will depend on which office requested your completion of this form. If you are seeking the I-20 to the purpose of a US visa interview or adjusting your current visa status to the F-1 visa, then please submit a scanned copy of your completed form to the Admissions office ([internationaladmissions@lamar.edu](mailto:internationaladmissions@lamar.edu)) as a .PDF attachment. Save the original completed copy for your visa interview or adjustment process. If you are completing an SEVIS Program extension request or similar process, please submit the documents to the Office of International Education and Services ([international@lamar.edu](mailto:international@lamar.edu)).

If you are transferring your SEVIS record from another school to Lamar University, then you will instead need to submit your financial guarantee as a part of our [SEVIS Transfer-In Form request](#) (along with other documents). Students must complete that online webform and submit all requested documentation within to receive the valid Transfer I-20.



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- You may use a personalized affidavit instead of this form. If you will use a personalized affidavit, ensure that your document contains satisfactory information to indicate your and/or your sponsor's ability and willingness to fund your educational pursuits. **All financial documents must be within 12 months of their issue date for our office to consider it as valid.**
- When using this form, complete all sections as applicable. If there is a section that is not applicable to you (such as no dependents or no other sponsors), then simply leave those sections blank. **Read all information given in this document!**
- For additional information regarding the use of this form, please refer to the separate "Instructions" document for this form.

International students seeking the SEVIS I-20 form must have the financial resources to live and study in the United States. This includes being able to cover the cost of tuition, books, living expenses and travel. SEVIS Designated School Officials (DSOs) must collect evidence of the student's financial ability before issuing a valid, official I-20 form to an accepted student.

To qualify for the I-20 issuance from Lamar University, a student must show reasonable evidence of financial ability that may cover estimated expenses for at least one academic year (12 months). Refer to the table below for the most recent expense estimates (in USD). A student's financial guarantee must meet or exceed the **Total Required Funding** estimate (depending on Degree Level).

	<b>Undergraduate (Bachelors)</b> (12 credit hours/ semester) x 2 long semesters	<b>Graduate (Masters and Doctoral)</b> (9 Grad credit hours/ semester) x 2 long semesters
Tuition and Fees	\$18,481	\$15,754
Housing & Personal	\$9,980	\$9,980
Health Insurance*, Books, and Supplies	\$2,611	\$2,611
<b>Total Required Funding</b>	<b>\$31,073</b>	<b>\$28,346</b>

\* **Health Insurance**—Year-round (12 months) health insurance is required. Students are automatically enrolled in the University-sponsored health insurance plan at the start of their first semester of enrollment.

Summer tuition expenses are not included in the estimates above. Students starting in Summer must enroll in that Summer semester, as well as the following Fall and Spring semesters, to maintain their valid F visa status. These conservative estimates are based on the needs of an average full-time student without dependents. Living costs are estimates only, and can be higher or lower depending on a student's living standards.

Students who are confirmed to be offered funding through scholarships or other school awards will have their financial ability requirement lowered by the award amount. Any added **F-2 Dependents will add to both your expense estimate** and financial requirement (\$6,526 for spouse and \$5,136 per child).

### SECTION 1 - STUDENT'S IDENTIFYING INFORMATION - *Please use the information presented in your passport where possible*

Student's Name (Family Name/Surname, then Given/First Name)		LU ID Number (L#####)	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
Address of Residence—Street Address (House Number, Colony, etc.)			
<input type="text"/>			
City	Province	Postal Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City/Place of Birth (as shown on passport)		Country of Birth	Country of Citizenship
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Gender	Email Address	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	<input type="text"/>	
<i>I have applied and been accepted for a (pick one) <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate degree program, and I understand that I must show evidence of funding that meets or exceeds the expense estimate as given in the table above in order to qualify for the I-20 issuance. My signature below certifies that my answers in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.</i>			
Student's Signature and Date:		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		MM	DD YYYY



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### SECTION 2 - FUNDING AND SPONSOR(S) INFORMATION

#### ⇒ SPONSOR #1

Sponsor's Full Name - PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE CLEARLY

Relation to Student

Self/Personal: ☐

Friend: ☐

Family/Relative: ☐

Employer: ☐

Other:

The financial institution may provide their seal/stamp and representative's signature in the box here to affirm the sponsor's financial ability, **OR** the sponsor must submit a separate bank statement issued directly by the bank.

#### Sponsor's Certification of Understanding

This is to certify that I, the sponsor named above, understand that I am willing and financially able to fund the expense costs of the student identified on page 1 of this document. I am willing to provide up to USD \$  in funding for this purpose. I am also providing reasonable evidence of my financial ability with this document, either with the bank representative's seal/stamp and signature, or with an attached letter issued by the financial institution. My signature below attests to the information above.

Sponsor # 1 —  
Signature and Date

MM  DD  YYYY

#### ⇒ SPONSOR #2

Sponsor's Full Name - PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE CLEARLY

Relation to Student

Self/Personal: ☐

Friend: ☐

Family/Relative: ☐

Employer: ☐

Other:

The financial institution may provide their seal/stamp and representative's signature in the box here to affirm the sponsor's financial ability, **OR** the sponsor must submit a separate bank statement issued directly by the bank.

#### Sponsor's Certification of Understanding

This is to certify that I, the sponsor named above, understand that I am willing and financially able to fund the expense costs of the student identified on page 1 of this document. I am willing to provide up to USD \$  in funding for this purpose. I am also providing reasonable evidence of my financial ability with this document, either with the bank representative's seal/stamp and signature, or with an attached letter issued by the financial institution. My signature below attests to the information above.

Sponsor # 2 —  
Signature and Date

MM  DD  YYYY

### SECTION 3 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM STUDENT

Q1: Do you plan to include any dependents on your SEVIS record to receive a F-2 I-20? ☐ Yes (see below) ☐ No (skip to Q2)

**If YES**, please enter their information below, and ensure your funding allows for their additional expense (see previous page).

Family Name/Surname	First/Given Name	Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY	Gender	Country of Birth	Country of Citizenship	Spouse or Child
			M F			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			M F			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			M F			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

For additional dependents, please include a separate sheet of paper to this document, and list all information requested above.

Q2: Do you **currently** have an F-1 Student Visa from a different U.S. school? ☐ Yes (see below) ☐ No

**If YES**, please name the institution which issued your I-20:

If you wish to transfer your SEVIS record from another US school to Lamar University, you will be required to submit this form as part of the online SEVIS Transfer-In Webform. You must also alert the DSO of the Transfer Out school of your intent to transfer your SEVIS record.

Retain copies of all financial documents submitted here for your Visa interview and travel request. US government agents reserve the right to request these and other documents at any time to ensure your eligibility for the Visa stamp and your entry into the US.