

Arroyo Pacific Academy

International Student Pre-Arrival Guide

This Pre-Arrival Guide contains valuable information to help you prepare for your studies with us in Arcadia, California, so we encourage you to read it carefully. We hope that the following information will help you during your transition to Arroyo Pacific Academy.

The I-20 verifies your eligibility for an F-1 Student Visa. We strongly advise you to start your visa process as soon as you receive your I-20 from Arroyo Pacific Academy. Our Admissions Director is here to help you with any question you might have, contact him at azar@arroyopacific.org.

Visa Information

Student Visas



Once you have provided all required admissions documents, including the Bank Verification Form - The Affidavit of Support with bank statements, and have been admitted to Arroyo Pacific Academy, we will send you Form I-20. You will need to take your financial support documents (bank statements), together with your Letter of Acceptance to the nearest U.S.

Consulate to apply for your F-1 student visa. Please contact the U.S. Consulate in your country for further information on visa application requirements and procedures and the time normally required for processing. Please apply for your student F-1 visa as early as possible. For specific details, visit the EducationUSA website at <http://educationusa.state.gov/> created by the Department of State and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

Entering the United States

Students will not be permitted to enter the United States if you appear at a port of entry sooner than 30 days prior to the program start date on Form I-20, despite having a valid F-1 visa.

At the United States Port of Entry, you will need to show the documents that you presented at the U.S. Consulate to an official of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). You should then be issued Form I-94 and Page 3 of the I-20 with a DHS stamp on the top. Check that you have these documents before leaving the DHS desk.



If you receive I-20 forms from several different schools, it is very important that you enter the United States with the I-20 of the school you really want to attend. This will avoid potential problems with the Department of Homeland Security.

You **must report to Arroyo Pacific Academy within 15 days** of the program start for Registration as indicated on the pending I-20 by Arroyo Pacific Academy.

Requirements

F-1 students must enroll for a full-course of study from September through July to achieve a high school diploma at Arroyo Pacific Academy. Our International Orientation

Program may be required in August. You may be required to attend Summer School in June and July. You are required to attend classes at the school that issued the I-20 used for entry into the United States.

Los Angeles International Airport

The Los Angeles International Airport is about 38 miles west of Arroyo Pacific Academy. There is a Visitors Center and foreign currency exchange in the International Terminal at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Housing Information

Arroyo Pacific Academy does not offer or provide for residential living accommodations or temporary housing arrangements. Each international student must have housing arrangements secured prior to Registration for the academic year. The parent/guardian is responsible for making residential arrangements for room and board with host families. Housing arrangements for room and board are administered by private outside agencies.

Independent companies coordinate and arrange host home and family placements who provide room and board for our international students. The host family provides a student with personal care, and guidance throughout their stay and enrollment at Arroyo Pacific Academy.

Money

It is recommended that you bring enough money with you to cover your first semester's expenses for additional class/school supplies, lunch money, snacks, transportation, personal items and entertainment. A checking account with an ATM card in the student and parent name is to be used for personal expenses.

Health Insurance and Immunizations

Students accepted into Arroyo Pacific Academy must have health insurance and current Immunizations valid in the United States at the time of Registration. Parents are responsible for all costs of medical and dental care, tests, allergy shots, and prescriptions. Due to the high cost of medical care in the U.S., all international students must have adequate medical insurance in case of an emergency. All F-1 students are required to obtain health insurance before arrival to Arroyo Pacific Academy. We strongly recommend that you obtain your insurance and make a copy of your policy well in advance of your arrival to Arroyo Pacific Academy.

As part of your Registration, you must meet the requirements of the California School Immunization Law and provide the school a copy translated and certified into English of:

1. Covered Services
2. Proof of Health/Medical Insurance coverage in the form of either your insurance card or your policy with the student's name and effective dates noted. Coverage must be for the length of time the student is attending Arroyo Pacific Academy.

California State law requires that all high school students be immunized against Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and

Varicella **BEFORE** registering and arriving for classes. You must bring with your current and complete Immunization Record, translated by a certified translator.

In the United States, most strong medications require a doctor's prescription. You should bring with you sufficient supplies of medications for any conditions you have as allowed by law.

What to bring to Arcadia in Southern California



Arcadia is a city in Los Angeles County, California that is located about 13 miles (21 km) northeast of downtown Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley, at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. It is the site of the Santa Anita Park racetrack and home to the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden the Westfield Santa Anita Mall is a major shopping center in the city. Each of these attractions are very close to Arroyo Pacific Academy.

In the San Gabriel Valley you will experience hot and sometime humid weather in the summer and cool, dry weather in the winter. You will need appropriate clothing for each season. If you are coming from a country that does not have such a wide range of climatic conditions, you may find it easier to purchase seasonal clothing once you arrive. Reasonably priced clothing can be purchased at locations close to the Academy.



Our dress code on campus promotes a focus on learning. We believe that a student's appearance has an impact on his/her attitude and behavior. Students are required to be dressed neatly and appropriately as befits an academic institution. No attire that suggests gang affiliation or exaggerated fashion is allowed. Any ill-fitting jackets, and/or sweatshirts that are too tight, oversized, baggy, too short, or very long are prohibited.

Specific details are in our *School Handbook*, available online at www.arroyopacific.org, under "Academics" and scroll down to School Handbook to read our Dress Code expectations.

Remember to bring all personal documents including your medical records, proof of insurance, transcripts and academic records translated into English by a certified translator. You may also wish to bring a few items typical of the crafts or handiwork of your country to use as small gifts.