

HOW DO I FINANCIALLY QUALIFY FOR AN I-20?

WHAT IS A FORM I-20? AND WHY DO YOU NEED ONE?

An I-20 is a government form on which Manhattanville College certifies to the U.S. government that you are eligible for F-1 Student status. It certifies that you have met our admissions requirements, have been accepted for a full course of study, and have proven to us that you have enough money to study and live in the U.S. without working illegally or suffering from poverty. **You need a form I-20 to obtain an F-1 student visa.**

WHY DO I NEED TO GIVE THE COLLEGE FINANCIAL INFORMATION?

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) outlines various regulations that schools must follow in order to be eligible to issue an I-20. Sometimes, we may have to ask you to give us more evidence of your financial ability. The U.S. government requires that we be absolutely sure, to the best of our ability, that you demonstrate enough financial (cash) support to cover the costs of your program for one academic year (scholarships included) and to provide a plan on how you can afford each following year's costs. We encourage students and their families to look closely at the cost of living and studying in the U.S. and make careful plans to be sure the student's needs are met. For this reason, Manhattanville College requires that you forward to us a financial statement, which clearly outlines your ability to pay. After Manhattanville has reviewed and accepted your financial documents, you will receive your I-20 form.

CAREFULLY REVIEW MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE COSTS

- **THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.** They represent a minimum budget, which does not allow for luxuries of any kind. You will want to have more money available if possible.
- **EXPECT AN ANNUAL INCREASE** in tuition and living costs of about 7%.

DO NOT EXPECT THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WORK TO MEET YOUR MINIMUM ANNUAL COSTS – F-1 student employment is very limited by USCIS regulations.

ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE LESS THAN SIX MONTHS OLD AND IN ENGLISH. You will need the originals of all the documents you have sent us to show the American Embassy when getting your student visa.

YOU CAN SUPPORT YOURSELF WITH YOUR OWN PERSONAL FUNDS, which come only from your own or your family's savings and investments. **You can prove your personal funds with the following documents:**

- **COLLEGE BOARD INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CERTIFICATION OF FINANCES**, available on the Manhattanville website (link).
- **OFFICIAL BANK STATEMENTS** in your name only, which state **the date the account was opened**, current balance in U.S. dollars, **average deposits and average balances**. We cannot accept statements that do not specify balances unless it is stated to be a minimum of six figures in U.S. dollars. We cannot accept online printouts of bank balances.
- **PROOF OF INCOME.** This must be on the employer's letterhead, on income tax returns or receipts, or estimated by a bank or private accountant when the sponsor is a self-employed businessperson. The income/profits of an entire company will not be accepted as proof of income.

STATEMENTS OF LIQUID ASSETS only.

YOU MAY SUPPORT YOURSELF WITH FUNDS FROM OTHER SPONSORS such as relatives or community organizations. *It is highly recommended that at least part of your financial support come from your home country for purposes of visa issuance.* Sponsors may provide you with support in the form of cash and/or room and board. See attached forms if you have a sponsor providing cash or housing.