Congratulations on your acceptance to CIIS! We are looking forward to having you join us! This International Student Acceptance packet includes information for the next steps in getting out to CIIS and the Bay Area. It includes information on obtaining an F-1 student visa, financing your stay in the U.S., international student services, and housing.

CIIS assists degree-seeking students with the application for F-1 student visas only. You will need to obtain a SEVIS Form I-20 from the university before you apply for the visa. In order to obtain a SEVIS Form I-20, you need to do the following:

1. Be fully admitted to a CIIS degree program;
2. Submit by email or post the Certificate of Funding form and support financial documentation showing one year of tuition and living expenses to the International Student Advisor;
3. Submit by email or post a copy of your valid passport to the International Student Advisor;
4. Pay your enrollment deposit by logging onto MyCIIS→Admissions tab→Acceptance Resources.

I will be in touch with you throughout the summer with information on the Summer Bridge Program, housing options, the required New International Student Orientation and more. If you have any questions along the way feel free to contact me at (415) 575-6157 or at joconnor@ciis.edu. Please check the MyCIIS International Students pages for all required forms for incoming international students.

I look forward to meeting you in person soon.

Sincerely,

Jody L. O’Connor
Associate Director, Student Affairs
International Student Recruitment and Services

Applying for an F-1 Visa

At CIIS, international students are defined by their citizenship status. If an applicant does not hold U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, they are classified as an international student. CIIS assists admitted degree-seeking students in eligible programs with the application for the F-1 student visa. International students not eligible for the student visa and all self-identified international students regardless of citizenship status are also welcome use services offered through International Student Services.

Steps for the Student Visa Process

As soon as possible upon your acceptance to CIIS, you will:

- Provide the CIIS Certificate of Funding Form, support financial documents and a copy of your passport to the International Student Advisor. Scanned email documents are preferred. Please keep a copy for yourself for the visa appointment and entry to the U.S.
- Receive the CIIS I-20 form within 2 weeks from CIIS via DHL Express Mail to the mailing address on your Certificate of Funding Form (no PO Boxes allowed).
• Pay the SEVIS Fee online (paid to the U.S. government at least 3-5 days prior to a visa appointment or entrance to the U.S.)
• Make and attend a visa appointment at the U.S. Consulate in your home country. Citizens of Canada may obtain their F-1 status stamp at the port of entry. Visa appointments and wait times vary by country.

You may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start of the Program Start date listed on your SEVIS I-20. Students starting in the fall semester should plan your arrival to the U.S. for the Summer Bridge Program in early August.

For further details please locate your local U.S. Consulate at: http://travel.state.gov

### Information for Online, Hybrid and Low-Residency Programs

**Online and Low-Residency Programs**

Per SEVIS regulations, online degree programs do not meet eligibility requirements for the I-20/ F-1 student visa. Online students should enter the U.S. on a tourist visa or tourist waiver for the required weeklong intensives/retreats. Please contact the International Student Advisor with questions.

Students in weekend or low-residency/semi-distance programs are required to obtain the F-1 student visa whether or not they intend to live in the U.S.

### Preparing for Study in the United States

Below are the estimated costs set for the requirement for the SEVIS I-20. Actual costs will vary for each individual and by program, but it is good to work within this estimated budget for your planning. Please keep in mind that there are additional educational costs for *all students in the School of Professional Psychology to complete at least 45 hours of personal psychotherapy* while enrolled in the program. These hours are required for graduation and the costs are not factored into the estimates below.

The following is a breakdown of estimated expenses for the **2018-2019** academic year and the amount required for the visa application process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BA</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>Ph.D.</th>
<th>Psy.D.</th>
<th>MSTCM</th>
<th>DACM</th>
<th>DAOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall-Spring and Summer</td>
<td>Fall-Spring</td>
<td>Summer (optional)</td>
<td>Fall-Spring</td>
<td>Summer (optional)</td>
<td>Fall-Spring and Summer</td>
<td>Fall-Spring and Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$29,903</td>
<td>$20,970</td>
<td>$3,495</td>
<td>$24,228</td>
<td>$4,038</td>
<td>$32,304</td>
<td>$22,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$645</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$215</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$215</td>
<td>$645</td>
<td>$645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing/Food</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/Supplies</td>
<td>$12,290</td>
<td>$8,200</td>
<td>$8,200</td>
<td>$12,290</td>
<td>$12,290</td>
<td>$12,290</td>
<td>$12,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Per Year</td>
<td><strong>$66,838</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>$52,858</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,239</strong></td>
<td><strong>$59,210</strong></td>
<td><strong>$59,783</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,264</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated tuition costs are based on full-time enrollment. *Transportation estimates do not include international travel.*

**Estimated living expenses are based on a statewide average from a survey conducted by the California Student Aid Commission (with adjustments to reflect costs of the San Francisco Bay Area). Expenses may vary based on your standard of living and where you live in the Bay Area.*
Room and Board: Depending on the neighborhood, you will find rents starting at approximately $1,300 per month for a studio and $1,600 per month for a one bedroom apartment. You may also want to consider shared housing. Please review the Housing Guide on MyCIIS, Student Affairs tab — https://my.ciis.edu

Expenses for Married Students: Students who plan to bring members of their families to the U.S. must plan carefully for their family’s support. Childcare and schooling must also be considered. Spouses, children, and other dependents will not be allowed into the United States unless the student can prove availability of sufficient funds to support dependents. This amount is estimated to be $7,000 per dependent in addition to the Total per Year amount. An F-2 spouse may not work or participate in a degree program. An F-2 child may attend school.

Miscellaneous Expenses: Miscellaneous expenses include daily necessities such as clothing, laundry, recreation, and entertainment. Not included are additional costs such as buying a car or additional appliances. Personal expenses will vary according to each student’s habits and preferences.

Financing Your Education

For many international students finding the resources to fund an education in the United States is a concern. CIIS is committed to assisting international students, but often students must find additional sources of support. International students are not eligible for United States Federal Financial Student Aid (FAFSA).

Scholarships and Grants

International students may apply for the CIIS Opportunity Scholarship, Diversity Scholarship and various Awarded Scholarships that are primarily based on financial need. Recipients must meet the terms of the award and pay the balance of tuition costs and all living expenses throughout the duration of their studies at the university. All students will be notified of their award and terms by email from the Financial Aid office.

Many CIIS international students depend on external sources of funding through grants and scholarships from various organizations. It is recommended to look into funding opportunities available through your local and national governments. Please find the document Financial Aid Resources for International Students on the website at www.ciis.edu/international.

Employment in the United States

F-1 visa holders are permitted to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and up to 40 hours per week during break periods and summer semester (depending on availability). You may commence campus employment from the first day of the semester for which you begin. The maximum a student can earn through campus employment at CIIS is $8,000/year. The availability of student employment on campus is limited and is not guaranteed; however, many international students find work on campus within their first year at CIIS.

Off-campus employment authorization is rare at CIIS during the course of study. Students who successfully complete their program are eligible to apply for employment authorization in their field for up to 12 months upon graduating.

Summer Bridge Program and your I-20 form

The Summer Bridge program takes place at the beginning of August every year and is part of the New International Student Orientation. It is an opportunity to engage academically and expand your community before the start of the busy fall semester. CIIS requires all incoming international students to participate regardless of their country of origin or their proficiency in English. You can read more about the program dates, content and features on the Summer Bridge page of the main CIIS website. RSVP to bridge@ciis.edu.

Since CIIS requires your attendance, your SEVIS I-20 form will reflect an early-August start date for admitted students for the fall semester. In the event that there are strong reasons that you will not be able to attend your I-20 will show the official fall semester start date. Students beginning their programs in the spring semester will be asked to attend in the subsequent fall semester.
Maintaining Your Visa Status in the U.S.

Each student is responsible for learning, understanding and complying with the U.S. laws and regulations that apply to the F-1 student visa status. Failure to be aware of and to comply with important USCIS regulations could jeopardize both your legal status in the U.S. and your future academic plans. Please review information through the following sites:

- U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (www.uscis.gov)
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (www.ice.gov). Information on maintaining your visa status while at CIIS is on the MyCIIS International Students pages.

You will receive detailed visa regulation information at the New International Student Orientation and in the International Student Handbook.

International Student Services

CIIS is committed to providing quality services for international students in academic and non-academic areas throughout your course of study. The following services are provided to international students:

- Summer Bridge program: Fall semester students should plan their arrival for August 1. New students who begin in the spring semester will attend the following August.
- New International Student Orientation: The International Student Advisor will review F-1 student visa rights and responsibilities, the CIIS student health plan and general information. Dependents are invited to join!
- Editing services
- Immigration advising and workshops
- Peer support campus group
- Educational and social activities

Services for all students offered through various departments include:

- Career Development Services—coaching and workshops for students and alumni around professional goals and applying for employment.
- Center for Writing and Scholarship—one-on-one tutoring, editing, workshop, courses
- Disability Services—assistance with accommodations made to one’s academic study based on a documented disability.
- Laurence S. Rockefeller Library—workshops, private study rooms
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion—Summer Bridge program partner, workshops, lectures, educational events and more!
- Student Union—student-run government organization, campus groups, conference funding, social events and more!
- Wellness Center—one-on-one counselling, health and wellness coaching, rotating stress-reduction offerings from yoga, Pilates, workshops and more.

Health Insurance and Housing

Health insurance is an important part of the international student’s education in the U.S. It is therefore is required of all international students at CIIS throughout the duration of their program of study. All students are required to enroll in the CIIS-endorsed insurance plan or can waive out with a comparable U.S. plan via the online form. Information and the enrollment/waiver form is on MyCIIS, Student Affairs, Wellness Services tab (log in). Details will be discussed at each New International Student Orientation.

CIIS does not offer housing placements, but has a variety of resources to assist students. Information is on the CIIS website and the International Student Advisor will provide guidance upon your admission to the university.