



# Information for International Students

**Covenant Seminary welcomes students from other countries and cultures and invites applications from people serving the church around the world.**

International students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to allow time for admittance and subsequent visa application and processing. **Covenant Seminary is authorized by the federal government to enroll F-1 non-immigrant international students.** Applicants from outside the United States must meet the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requirements, as well as Covenant Seminary's requirements of all students.

According to USCIS guidelines, students with a visa status other than F-1 may not enroll full time. Student visas are not issued for graduate certificates or auditing.

## Admissions

In addition to the standard application process, international students must:

- Prove English language proficiency.
  - To examine English proficiency at the graduate or post-graduate level, Covenant Seminary requires prospective international students to take the internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) or the Duolingo English Test (DET).
  - Required TOEFL iBT scores for admission to graduate programs at Covenant Seminary are as follows: cumulative score (84), writing component (21), speaking component (24), reading component (20), and listening component (19). At the discretion of the Admissions Committee, applicants who achieve the minimum score on three of the four components on the TOEFL iBT may be considered for admittance.
  - The required Duolingo English Test scores for admission to graduate level programs at Covenant Seminary is a minimum of 115.
  - The DMin and the ThM require a cumulative score of 88 on the TOEFL iBT or 120 on the Duolingo English Test.

- English proficiency testing may be waived for prospective students who meet the following requirements: (1) applicants from select countries where English is the primary language and the predominant language of educational instruction; (2) applicants who have completed university or graduate level study where English was the primary language of educational instruction with grades or marks that meet or exceed the requirements for the program to which they are applying. An English Language examination may still be requested for these students if English proficiency at the graduate level is a concern after a thorough examination of the student's application. This includes submitted application documents (e.g., personal essay, transcripts) and personal communication.
- For information on the TOEFL, visit the TOEFL website at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) or write to:
  - TOEFL Services  
ETS  
P.O. Box 6151  
Princeton, NJ 08451, USA
- Covenant Seminary's TOEFL code number is 6141.
- For information on the Duolingo English Test, visit the Duolingo website at <https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants>.
- Have the educational equivalent of a North American bachelor's degree.
  - Official Foreign Transcript Evaluations are required for all university or seminary coursework completed outside of the United States. Applications with prior coursework outside of the US must submit transcripts through a legitimate foreign credit evaluation service, such as [World Education Services](http://WorldEducationServices.com). Covenant only accepts official "course-by-course" evaluations that are sent directly from a valid evaluation service.
- Provide tuberculosis test results (if applicable).
  - According to Missouri law (RS 199.290), international students and their dependents from countries where tuberculosis is endemic must be tested for tuberculosis preliminarily as an admission requirement. **A tuberculosis (PPD) skin test is required again upon arrival in St. Louis before classes begin.** Students and their dependents must also yearly attest that they are free of TB symptoms. (Students from countries in which TB is not endemic are exempt from these requirements.)
  - A positive test must be followed by a chest x-ray and any preventative treatment prescribed by a physician.
- Demonstrate documented adequate financial resources.
  - According to federal law, international students must demonstrate adequate financial resources to fund their education and living expenses for one year by providing official bank statements, letters from sponsors, and/or other proof of funding. This documentation of financial support must be submitted before Covenant Seminary

can issue the student required documentation for the visa process. Available scholarships apply only to tuition and do not cover housing, food, books, or transportation costs. See Declaration & Certification of Finances (further instructions can be found in section 3 of the International Student Handbook).

### **Obtaining an F-1 Visa**

Once a student has been admitted and provided all required paperwork, an I-20 “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status” will be issued to the student.

The student will need to pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee and then apply for a visa.

For more information, see the International Student Handbook.

### **Next Steps**

Upon arrival in the States, check in with your Designated School Official for orientation.

Students with F-1 visa status must remain full time (10 credit hours for master’s degree programs or 8 hours for the ThM) while attending Covenant Seminary. If F-1 international students need to change the number of hours they are taking, they should first contact the International Student Advisor (in One-Stop). International students who have questions regarding student visas, changes to immigration status, work, or other immigration issues should contact the International Student Advisor and refer to the International Student Handbook, which goes over guidelines in detail.

**Questions? Contact Tiffany Najbart, International Student Advisor/Principal Designated School Official at [international@covenantseminary.edu](mailto:international@covenantseminary.edu).**