



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ADMISSIONS GUIDEBOOK

WELCOME

BIENVENIDOS

TERVETULOJA

MERHABA

DOBRO POZHALORAT

BIENVENUE

MABUHAY

HUAN YING

SUSHRI AKAL

IRASHAIMASU

WILLKOMMEN

SIYANIBINGELELA

Polk State College, 999 Avenue H NE, Winter Haven FL 33881-4299
Campuses in Winter Haven and Lakeland
(863)297-1000. www.polk.edu

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT
POLK STATE COLLEGE**

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Thank you for your interest in attending Polk State College. Provided below is some pertinent information about Polk State College and its admission requirements.

ACCREDITATION: Polk State College (PSC) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 679-4501.

LOCATION: PSC is located in the heart of Central Florida, serving Polk County residents with campuses located in Winter Haven and Lakeland. Polk County is a rural county with several small cities and many smaller towns. Many of the surrounding communities are known for their citrus production, cattle ranching and phosphate mining. Polk County offers a warm tropical climate and is within a 1½ hour drive to many of Florida's beautiful beaches and many tourist attractions.

SEMESTER HOUR SYSTEM: Polk State College utilizes the semester hour system, as opposed to the quarter hour system. This system divides the year into three semesters – known as fall, spring and summer at PSC. Many schools call them fall, winter and spring. The fall and spring semesters are each 16 weeks in duration, while the summer semester is 12 weeks long.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (A.A.) DEGREE / UNIVERSITY PARALLEL PROGRAMS: Polk State College offers an associate of arts degree, which is the first two years of study toward a baccalaureate degree. The various majors within the AA degree a student can pursue range from accounting to wildlife ecology. Students complete an associate of arts degree then transfer to a four-year institution to complete the baccalaureate degree. The AA degree is called the university parallel or transfer program.

Admission to a four-year college or university after completing the AA degree at Polk State College depends on the courses completed, grades earned at PSC and the admission policies of the institution to which the student has chosen to transfer. **Please note:** Students who earn higher grades will have a better chance of being accepted to a four-year institution.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS) AND ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREES (AAS): The Associate of Science (AS) degree is awarded to students completing one of the 29 occupational programs designed to provide students two possible routes upon completion of the degree. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree allows for employment in the occupational field and the AS degree allows the student to seek employment or to transfer to a college or university to complete the baccalaureate degree. AS and AAS degrees are generally two-year programs; however, some require three years to complete. These two-year programs are offered in a variety of disciplines, ranging from accounting technology to radiologic technology and are listed in the PSC catalog.

HOUSING: As a community college, PSC does not provide housing for its' students, on or off campus. The college recommends that all international students plan to arrive at least three weeks before classes begin to have adequate time to locate housing and to complete the admission requirements of reporting to the international student advisor and to take the college placement test (CPT). There are several apartment complexes located within easy commuting distance and several others located on the bus route. Names and addresses are located in the Information Section at the back of this guidebook.

FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES: Polk State College does not have any financial aid resources available for international students. Included in the information section of this packet is a list of external financial aid resources available that you may want to consider.

For more information, please refer to PSC's catalog. One may have been included with this packet. If not, please access the catalog from our website, www.polk.edu.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT

BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AT POLK STATE COLLEGE

ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ATTENDING PSC ON AN F-1 STUDENT VISA ARE REQUIRED TO BE FULL-TIME STUDENTS: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires that all students on F-1 visa status must be enrolled as full-time students during the fall (late August through mid December) and spring (early January to early May) semesters. The summer semesters are considered the students' vacation period provided they have attended full time for the past 9 months. While some students return home to visit family and friends, many attend classes during the summer semesters. Some attend school so that they can continue to work on campus, while some travel or stay close to take advantage of the beaches and local tourist attractions.

Full-time status is determined by the number of semester hours for which students are enrolled. Twelve (12) semester (credit) hours is required to be a full-time student in the fall and spring semesters. Most classes are three semester hours each. A semester (credit) hour is an estimate of the number of hours that a class meets per week for the entire 16-week semester.

Please note: In order to complete the degree requirements in a two-year period, students must complete at least 30 credit hours each year. Although 12 hours is considered full-time, students must plan to take more classes per semester or plan to attend one or both summer semesters in order to complete 30 semester hours per year.

WHAT DO I NEED TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL?

- 1) What are the admission criteria, and do I meet them?
- 2) Are there any deadlines, and do I have time to meet them?
- 3) High school transcripts and exam results – are they high enough to be admitted to college? Are they going to be easy or difficult to obtain? Is the evaluation of these documents done internally at the college, or is an external evaluation service required?
- 4) How much does it cost to attend, and do I have the financial resources and means of support?
- 5) Does the school offer housing?
- 6) Is transportation necessary, or is there a bus to campus?
- 7) What are the estimated moving expenses?
- 8) What are the costs for tuition, books, fees, and insurance? and
- 9) What are the travel expenses to visit home periodically?

Costs to attend Polk State College as an international student:

The estimated costs to support an international student are approximately \$17,756 per year and \$5000 per year per dependent. The funds available **must** be documented by a recent bank statement and must be \$17,756 after converting to U.S. dollars using the current exchange rate. The estimate of expenses does not include admission costs, nor does it include travel expenses to and from the home country.

➤ Tuition (30 semester hours at \$218.04 per credit hour) and lab fees	\$ 6700
➤ Books and supplies	\$ 1300
➤ Medical insurance (age 18-25 is \$63/month)*	\$ 756
➤ Living expenses (small 1 bedroom apartment or sharing 2 bedroom)	\$ 9000

- * Medical insurance costs are based on the age of the student and can range anywhere from \$63-375 per month.
- If you plan to own an automobile while in the United States, plan on an additional \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year for payments, gas, insurance and maintenance.

Please Note: The expenses noted here are estimates of the minimum required. These expenses are subject to change without notice when increased costs make it necessary.

POLK STATE COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

International students applying for admission to Polk State College should begin the admission process at the earliest possible date prior to the semester they wish to begin their studies. Because of mail delays, transcript evaluations, international monetary transfers, consular appointments, proof of financial support, proof of retaining residency in the home country, travel arrangements, housing, and college testing, advising and orientation, it is necessary that applicants begin the admission process three to six months in advance.

Polk State College's Office of International Student Admissions (address in Information Section of this packet) must receive the admission requirements listed below before SEVIS Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility, will be issued. The SEVIS Form I-20 is necessary to apply for the F-1 student visa at the consulate or embassy in the student's home country.

Deadlines for admission requirements:

May 15 for the fall semester (August - December)

October 15 for the spring semester (January - May)

March 15 for both summer semesters (May - August)

Admission requirements for degree-seeking status:

- **Application for Admission to Polk State College***. Requires a \$20 non-refundable application fee in U.S. dollars. The application requests an U.S. Social Security number; please leave this section blank if you do not have one. The college will issue you a number to use for access to your records.
- **International Student Application****
- **Affidavit of Support****. Must be signed by the person providing support. **Attach a bank statement showing funds available for educational purposes. The bank statement must be submitted within the three months prior to admission.** Funds available must equal or exceed \$ 17,756 to support the student and an additional \$5000 is needed to support each dependent. A letter of employment may be requested to verify a sponsor's income.
- **Health Examination Form****. Have your physician conduct a physical exam. The college's Health Examination Form must be filled out and signed by a licensed physician.
- **Proof of Medical Insurance***. Students must have basic medical coverage; however PSC would prefer all International Students to have Medical Evacuation and Repatriation coverage, also.
- **Proof of English Proficiency**. Can be met through any one of the following means:
 - **Students from countries where English is the native language are considered proficient.** Complete the enclosed **Affidavit of Native Language*** and return to PSC with your application for admission.
 - **TOEFL. Test of English as a Foreign Language.** Minimum score required on paper and pencil exam is **525**. Minimum score required on the computerized exam is **195**. **Scores must be within the past two years and sent directly to Polk State College from Educational Testing Services.**
 - Information regarding taking the TOEFL and the application form to register for TOEFL in the United States is available from the ETS website at <http://www.toefl.org>. If you need an application to take the exam outside the United States, please request one directly from Educational Testing Services. Their address and phone number are located in the Information Section of this packet.
 - **Satisfactory completion of the highest level of an accredited Intensive English Language program. See the next section for admissions information about PSC's EAP program.**
 - **Score of four (4) or higher on the Advance Placement's International English Language Exam.**
- **Official Transcripts**. Official transcripts from high school (secondary level), technical schools, colleges and universities must bear the seal of the institution and must be sent directly from the institution issuing the transcript to Polk State College's Office of International Student Admissions.
 - **Certified English Translation***. If transcripts are not available in English, students must provide transcripts in the native language and a certified English translation. Josef Silny and Associates (JSA) can provide the certified English translation. The cost of the translation is the responsibility of the

student. Josef Silny charges approximately \$75 per page. Please check with the JSA office for a translation price quote. Josef Silny's address and phone number are included in the information section of this packet.

- **Evaluation of Transcripts***. Polk State College does not evaluate foreign credentials; therefore, a recognized evaluation service, such as Josef Silny & Associates (JSA) or World Education Services (WES) must evaluate your transcripts. Applications for both of these services are available in the enclosed packet. An evaluation report from any other agency must be accompanied by a statement or letter from the company on letterhead stationery stating the agency is a member of NACES – National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. The cost of the evaluation is the responsibility of the student.
 - Students needing high school transcripts evaluated should request a **document-by-document** evaluation, costing approximately \$70-100. Students seeking college transfer credit must request a **course-by-course** evaluation, costing approximately \$120-150. Evaluations can be rushed for \$50 to \$195 in addition to the evaluation fee.

Admission requirements for English for Academic Purposes (EAP):

- **Application for Admission to Polk State College***. Requires a \$20 non-refundable application fee paid in U.S. dollars. The application requests an U.S. Social Security number; please leave this section blank if you do not have one. The college will issue you a number to use for access to your records.
- **International Student Application****
- **Affidavit of Support****. Must be signed by the person providing support. **Attach a bank statement showing funds available for educational purposes. The bank statement must be submitted within the three months prior to admission.** Funds available must equal or exceed \$ 17,756 to support the student and an additional \$5000 is needed to support each dependent. A letter of employment may be requested to verify a sponsor's income.
- **Health Examination Form****. Have your physician conduct a physical exam. The college's Health Examination Form must be filled out and signed by a licensed physician.
- **Proof of Medical Insurance***. Students must have basic medical coverage; however PSC would prefer all International Students to have Medical Evacuation and Repatriation coverage, also.
- **Proof of English Proficiency**. Can be met through either of the following means:
 - **TOEFL. Test of English as a Foreign Language**. Minimum score required on paper and pencil exam is **470**. Minimum score required on the computerized exam is **170**. **Scores must be within the past two years and sent directly to Polk State College from Educational Testing Services.**
 - Information regarding taking the TOEFL and the application form to register for TOEFL in the United States is available from the ETS website at <http://www.toefl.org>. If you need an application to take the exam outside the United States, please request one directly from Educational Testing Services. Their address and phone number are located in the Information Section of this packet.
 - If you have resided in the United States for five (5) or more years, you may waive the TOEFL requirement and use the Levels of English Proficiency (LOEP) test of PSC's College Placement test for English proficiency and placement into the appropriate level of EAP courses.
- **Official Transcripts**. Official transcripts from high school (secondary level), technical schools, colleges and universities must bear the seal of the institution and must be sent directly from the institution issuing the transcript to Polk State College's Office of International Student Admissions.
- **Certified English Translation***. If transcripts are not available in English, students must provide transcripts in the native language and a certified English translation. Josef Silny and Associates can provide the certified English translation. The cost of the translation is the responsibility of the student. Josef Silny charges approximately \$75 per page. Please check with that office for a translation price quote. Josef Silny's address and phone number are included in the information section of this packet.
- **Evaluation of Transcripts***. Polk State College does not evaluate foreign credentials; therefore, a recognized evaluation service, such as Josef Silny & Associates or World Education Services must evaluate your transcripts. Applications for both of these services are available in the enclosed packet. An evaluation report from any other agency must be accompanied by a statement or letter from the company on letterhead

stationery stating the agency is a member of NACES – National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. The cost of the evaluation is the responsibility of the student.

- Students needing **high school transcripts** evaluated should request a **document-by-document** evaluation, costing approximately \$70-100. Students seeking **college transfer credit** must request a **course-by-course** evaluation, costing approximately \$120-150. Evaluations can be rushed for \$50 to \$195 in addition to the evaluation fee.

ISSUANCE OF SEVIS I-20 FORM.

After all the admission documents listed above have been received and approved by the International Student Advisor, Polk State College will issue the student a SEVIS Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility.

Once you have received your SEVIS Form I-20, please make an appointment at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in your country. **Bring with you to your appointment the following items:**

- ◆ the SEVIS Form I-20 and your acceptance letter issued by Polk State College
- ◆ your passport which must be valid for at least 6 month beyond your intended stay in the United States
- ◆ proof that you have the financial capabilities to study in the United States
- ◆ receipt that you have paid the SEVIS I-901 fee
- ◆ proof that you have ties to your home country that ensures you will return home upon the completion of your studies

Failure to prove ties to the home country is the most common reason for visa denial. Historically, 60 percent of students who study in the U.S. on F-1 visas do not return home. U.S. embassies are aware of this statistic.

Items to bring to your appointment that may assist you in proving ties to your home country:

- ◆ A short statement (about a half page) from you stating what you intend to study and how you intend to use that knowledge to improve economic conditions, technology, commerce, health care, law enforcement or other areas of business or industry in your home country.
- ◆ Also, a letter from an official or representative of a company that you would like to work for upon your return home. A statement that they are willing to consider you for employment is a good indication of ties to your home country.
- ◆ Proof of ownership of land, home, business or automobile in your home country.
- ◆ Proof of family members remaining in home country, such as fiancé, spouse or children.

This documentation will provide the consular or embassy official a complete picture of what you intend to study, the financial resources that show you can afford to study in the United States and your desire to return home with your degree.

The U.S. Consular or Embassy official will review your papers, ask a few questions and in about 2 minutes or less, will make the ultimate decision as to whether you will be granted an F-1 visa.

If you go to your appointment on time, are prepared, remain calm, dress and act in a professional manner, the process is really quite simple. Since the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks on the United States, the process for applying for a visa has changed. The process may include a background check and usually takes 2 – 4 weeks for visa issuance, so apply as early as possible.

VISA DENIED? If your visa request is denied, please attempt again at a time when another person is at the desk. Please contact the International Student Advisor to update you SEVIS I-20 form for a later semester. If problems arise in obtaining an F-1 visa, **DO NOT ENTER THE UNITED STATES ON A B-2 TOURIST VISA AND EXPECT TO BE ADMITTED TO A COLLEGE.** Once in the United States on a B-2 visa, it is very difficult to change visa status from B-2 to F-1 and the chance of deportation exists. **If you do enter the US on your tourist visa, tell the inspector at the port of entry (airport) that your intention is to go to college at**

Polk State College. The inspector will stamp your passport on the B-2 visa page with “Prospective Student”. If “Prospective Student” is indicated in the passport, the change of status is much more likely.

MISSED THE ADMISSION DEADLINE?

International students who are unable to complete the required admission requirements prior to the deadline may have to begin their studies at Polk State College the next available semester. Such students must initiate the request for a new SEVIS Form I-20 for the next available semester.

ARRIVAL INTO THE UNITED STATES:

Arrival into the United States can mean crossing the border from Canada or Mexico, by train, boat or airplane. However you enter the United States, this location is your **Port of Entry** (border, train station, boat terminal, or airport). At the port of entry, don't forget to stop by Customs and be inspected to attend school.

Present to the inspection officer your SEVIS Form I-20, your passport, your I-94 Arrival/Departure card and your college acceptance letter. Have readily available your proof of financial support. Your SEVIS Form I-20 must be stamped in the upper right hand corner, and Form I-94 Arrival/Departure card must be completed and stamped by the immigration inspector at the port of entry. The stamp should have the port of entry identified; the date of arrival is written in, and the valid until date “D/S” (duration of status) should be written in by the inspection officer. He should, also, stamp the passport page opposite your visa and your I-94 card with this same information.

Arriving in the United States. The two closest airports of entry are the International Airports in Orlando and Tampa. The closest train station is the Amtrak Station in Winter Haven, and the closest boat terminals are in Tampa Bay (west of us) and Port Canaveral (east of us). If you need transportation from your port of entry, please contact the international student advisor at least one week in advance with all pertinent information – time and date of arrival, airport and flight number. Arrangements, if at all possible, will be made for a PSC representative to pick you up at the port of entry. If PSC is not able to pick you up, we will notify you in advance of your travel and I would suggest you make arrangements to have the Polk County airport shuttle pick you up.

Arriving at Polk State College:

When you arrive into the area and have settled in, please come to Polk State College, Winter Haven campus. **Please see the international student advisor and have the following items with you: your stamped SEVIS Form I-20, valid passport with F-1 visa and stamped I-94 card.**

Please plan to spend several hours at PSC to complete your admission requirements. You will be required to take the College Placement Test (CPT). The CPT tests your skill levels in reading comprehension, English proficiency and algebra. It may also test college level math skills depending on the results of the algebra section. The exam is computerized and untimed. You should plan on about 2 to 3 hours to complete testing. The results of the exam will determine your eligibility for courses in your degree program. College preparatory or remedial courses and English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses are available for those students who do not test at the college level in these areas.

Course schedules and registration: After you have completed testing, an analysis of your test results will be done with the international student advisor, and if course schedules are available, a schedule of classes will be put together based on your results and the courses required for your major. If registration is in process, you will be registered for your courses on your schedule; otherwise, information about when to return for registration will be provided.

On the day of registration, please be prepared to pay for your semester's tuition and fees. This is estimated to be between \$2700 and \$3500 depending on how many courses you select. **Remember: You must register for and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.** Completion does not necessarily mean successful completion. If forced to choose between failing a course or withdrawing from a course that leaves you with less

than 12 credit hours, choose the failure. Dropping a course below full-time places you out of status with USCIS, requires you to request reinstatement from USCIS (\$195 fee) and requires you to repeat the course. Failure only means you need to repeat the course.

WORK AUTHORIZATION:

Polk State College does not authorize work permits for off-campus jobs. The international student advisor will assist international students in the application for work authorization only in emergency situations that are beyond the control of the student. The Affidavit of Support specifies that the student has adequate finances to study in the United States without needing to work.

International students are eligible to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters while enrolled full-time. Working on campus during the summer semesters is allowed up to 40 hours per week since the summer is considered the student's vacation period.

After thoroughly reading all the information on the previous pages and having decided to attend Polk State College, please complete the admission requirements. The forms necessary for you to complete and return to the International Student Advisor are included in the following Admission Section. The Checklist for International Students is for you to track your admission status.

Should you have any additional questions please refer them to:

Mary Westgate
Coordinator of Institutional Testing and International Student Advisor
Polk State College
999 Avenue H, NE
Winter Haven, FL 33881 USA

Telephone No.: 1-863-297-1010, extension 5201
Email: mwestgate@polk.edu
Fax No. (24 hours per day): 1-863-297-1060

College web address: www.polk.edu
College main phone No.: 1-863-297-1000

ADMISSION SECTION

Complete and return the following pages to the International Student Advisor.

- ◆ **Application for admission to Polk State College.** Include the application fee of US \$20.
- ◆ **International Student Application**
- ◆ **Affidavit of Support.** Attach or send separately bank statement(s) attesting that funds are available for educational and living expenses in an amount at or above \$ 17,756.00. Make copies of the Affidavit if necessary to include one for each person/sponsor providing support.
- ◆ **Health Certification Form.** Students must have a physical examination. The physician must attest to the physical and mental health of the student.
- ◆ **Affidavit of English as Native Language** if applicable.

Complete and return these documents to the provider as instructed below:

- ◆ Also, included in this packet are applications for two evaluation services, Josef Silny and Associates and World Education Services. Read both of these applications carefully. Choose one of the companies; complete their application and send the appropriate funds with the application to them. Request all foreign institutions, secondary school and colleges to send transcripts directly to the evaluation service for processing. **Please make sure to include the additional fee for Polk State College to receive a copy of the evaluation report.**
- ◆ Also, included in this packet is an application for international student Insurance from T.W. Lord and Associates. Please complete this application and mail directly to T.W. Lord and Associates with the proper payment and a copy of the SEVIS I-20 form. Insurance must be purchased for a minimum of 4 months; one year's coverage is preferred. You will receive an Insurance card in approximately 2-3 weeks. Bring your card in to the international student advisor for photocopying for your file.

You may receive an SEVIS Form I-20 without proof of medical Insurance. However, you may not register for classes without proof of coverage.

- ◆ Information regarding taking the TOEFL and the application form to register for TOEFL in the United States is available from the ETS website at <http://www.toefl.org>. Need to take the exam outside the United States? You may check the website or contact Educational Testing Service directly for a registration form. Their address and phone number are included in the Information Section of this packet. Their web address is <http://www.toefl.org>. Please have ETS send your TOEFL results to Polk State College. Our college code is 5548.

Information section

◆ **Polk State College Admissions:**

Mail all admission documentation to:

Mary Westgate

Polk State College

International Student Office

999 Avenue H, N.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33881-4299 USA

Phone: 863-297-1010, extension 5201

Fax: 863-297-1060

Email: mwestgate@polk.edu

Web site: www.polk.edu

Documentation will not be accepted via fax.

Documentation must be mailed or sent by courier services, such as Federal Express (FEDEX), DHL, or United Parcel Services (UPS) to the College Admissions address above.

◆ **Information about Polk State College's English for Academic Purposes Program (EAP):**

Mr. Chane Eplin

Polk State College

EAP Department

999 Avenue H, N.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33881-4299

Phone: 863-297-1010, extension 6235

Email address: ceplin@polk.edu

◆ **Information about Transcript Evaluation Services:**

1. **Josef Silny and Associates, Inc.**

Suite 775, IRE Financial Building

7101 S.W. 102 Avenue

Miami, FL 33173

Phone: 305-273-1616

Evaluation Fax: 305-273-1338. Translation fax:

305-273-1984

Email: info@jsilny.com. Web site: www.jsilny.com

2. **World Education Services, Inc.**

Post Office Box 01-5060

Miami, FL 33101-5060

Phone: 1-800-937-3899 or 305-358-6688

Fax: 305-358-4411

Email: south@wes.org. Web site: www.wes.org

3. **Any other agency used:** The transcript evaluation report must be accompanied by a statement that the agency is a member of NACES: National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc.

◆ **Information about TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language:**

Educational Testing Services

Post Office Box 6151

Princeton, NJ 08541-6151

Phone: 609-771-7100

Fax: 609-771-7500

Email: toefl@ets.org

Website: www.toefl.org

PSC College Code – Score recipient code is **5548**.

◆ **Information about International Student Insurance – T.W. Lord & Associates:**

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 1185

Marietta, GA 30061

Office Address: 25 Dodd Street

Marietta, GA 30061

Phone: 1-800-633-2360

Fax: 770-429-0638

Email: theplan@twlord.com

Web site: www.twlord.com

◆ **Transportation Services:**

• **Airports**

1. Orlando International Airport
407-825-2001
2. Tampa International Airport
813-870-8700

• **Airport Shuttle Service**

Polk Airport Transit Service

(Shuttle service to and from the Tampa International and Orlando International Airports – servicing the Winter Haven and Lakeland areas)

Address: 711 Elizabeth Lane

Auburndale, FL 33823

Phone: 863-967-6293

• **Train Station**

Amtrak Train Services

1-800-872-7245 or 863-294-9203

• **Bus Companies**

1. Greyhound Bus Company
Use Greyhound when traveling between cities
Phone: 863-293-5935
2. Citrus Connection
Use Citrus Connection for traveling within the city.
Phone: 863-688-7433

◆ **To assist you in relocating, contact the Chamber of Commerce. Each city has one.**

Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce:

Phone: 863-293-2138

Lakeland Chamber of Commerce:

Phone: 863-688-8551

◆ **Driver's License Office**

Phone: 863-499-2320

◆ **Social Security Administration Office**

Phone: 1-800-772-1213

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 – 3:30

Lakeland Address: 245 South Kentucky Avenue, Suite 200, Lakeland, FL 33801

Winter Haven Address: 245 West Central Avenue, Winter Haven, FL 33880

Web address: www.ssa.gov

◆ **Utilities Companies:**

Lakeland Water and Electric (Lakeland)

Phone: 863-688-9535

Tampa Electric Company (Winter Haven)

Phone: 1-888-223-0800

Central Florida Gas (Winter Haven)

Phone: 863-293-2125

Verizon Telephone (Winter Haven & Lakeland)

Phone: 1-800-483-4000

Winter Haven Water, Sewer and Garbage (Winter Haven)

Phone: 863-291-5678

Bright House Networks (cable television in Winter Haven)

Phone: 863-965-7766

APARTMENTS IN WINTER HAVEN

◆ **Close to Winter Haven campus and are moderately priced**

Brandywyne Apartments

418 18th Street S.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33884

Phone: 863-293-4648

Brandywyne West Apartments

411 18th Street S.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33884

Phone: 863-297-5253

Cambridge Square Apartments

400 Avenue K S.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-299-1000

Georgetown Apartments

130 Avenue C S.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-293-1183

Terrace Villas

1807 Third Court S.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-701-0802

Winter Oaks Apartments

200 Avenue K, S.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-293-3350

◆ **Further away from campus and are moderately priced**

The Landings

102 Landings Way

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-294-6492

Sail Winds Apartments

350 24th St NW

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-299-4467

- ◆ **Luxury Apartments – further away from campus and are higher priced**

River Lake Apartments

4200 Mahogany Run S.E.
Winter Haven, FL 33884
Phone: 863-324-1072

Village at Lake Ned

Cypress Gardens Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884
Phone: 1-877-907-7757 or 863-318-9670
Web address: www.villageapt.com

APARTMENTS IN LAKELAND

- ◆ **Close to Lakeland campus and are moderately priced**

Crystal Court Apartments

1969 Crystal Grove Apartments
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone: 863-665-4289

Emerald Run Apartments

429 Timberlane East
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone: 863-668-8835

Fountain Square Apartments

225 East Edgewood Drive
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-688-2742

Gilmore Terrace Apartments

823 Gilmore Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone: 863-686-0624

Martin's Landings

3520 Cleveland Heights Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-646-5006

Regency Apartments

140 Glendale Street
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-687-2439

Windover Apartments

1108 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone: 863-687-2585

Windsor Square Apartments

929 Gilmore Ave North
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone: 863-688-5459

Woodlake Garden Apartments

1475 Woodlake Drive
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-646-0327

- ◆ **Further away from campus and are moderately priced**

Imperial Crown Apartments

1013 Griffin Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
Phone: 863-688-0109

Lake Hollingsworth Villas

210 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-688-5000

LeMans Apartments

1501 Shepherd Road
Lakeland, FL 33811
Phone: 863-647-2929

Peppertree Village

321 Imperial Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-646-5069

Sutton Place

3150 Pyramid Parkway
Lakeland, FL 33805
Phone: 863-688-7590

- ◆ **Luxury Apartments – further away from campus and are higher priced**

Carlton Arms

1000 Carlton Arms Drive
Lakeland, FL 33811
Phone: 863-648-0666

Carlton Arms North

4500 Williamstown Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33810
Phone: 863-853-4900

Paddock Club Apartments

5115 North Socrum Loop Road
Lakeland, FL 33809
Phone: 863-859-6124

FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WEBSITES:

<http://www.finaid.org>

<http://www.fellowships.nas.edu/index.html>

<http://www.aauw.org>

<http://www.bibl.u-szeged.hu/oseas/europe.html>

<http://www.collegeboard.org/toc/html/tocfinancialaid000.html>

<http://www.finaid.org/finaid/focus/ilt-stud/html>

<http://www.nafsa.org/students/funding/html>

<http://www.nafsa.org/nafsa/students/students.html>

<http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants.html>

<http://www.rotary.org/foundation>

http://www.yahoo.com/Education/Financial_Aid/

<http://www.isoa.org> or call 1-800-244-1180

<http://www.nafsa.org/secussa/edu/edabroadlinks199.html>

<http://www.usjournal.com> via Special Services

<http://www.edupass.org>

<http://www.iefc.com>

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.fastweb.com>

<http://www.iie.org>

<http://www.iie.org/fulbright>

<http://www.macfdn.org>

<http://www.nsf.gov/>

<http://www.petersons.com>

<http://www.usia.org>

<http://www.nafsa.org/asaap>

<http://www.IEFA.org>

BOOKS:

Funding for US Study by The Institute of International Education

The International Student's Scholarship Handbook by Turning Point

LOAN OFFICES:

Citibank: CitiAssist Program

Contact Todd Woodlee

1-800-745-5473 or 1-800-846-1290

<http://www.citibank.com>

First Union National Bank

Contact Faye Becker

1-800-955-8805

faye.becker@firstunion.com

International Education Finance Corp.:

424 Adams St

Milton, MA 02186

1-617-696-7840

FAX: 1-617-698-3001

iefc@aol.com

<http://www.iefc.com>

Educaid: EXTRA International Student Loan Program

1-617-426-0681

1-800-255-8374

American Express

1-800-814-4595

Educational Finance Group

Contact Mike Galvin

1-508-862-2528

<http://www.finaid.org/finaid/focus/itl-stud/html>

TERI Loan Program

1-800-255-8374