TRI-CITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

christian academy

Tri-City Christian Academy is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. In order for international students to enroll at Tri-City Christian Academy, they must obtain an F-1 (student) visa.

Students should plan ahead for their study in the U.S. and should allow plenty of time for visa processing. United States embassies and consulates follow the same set of rules, which are then adapted to their host countries. Therefore, you should inquire in advance about individual policies in the U.S. embassy/ consulate in your home country.

A student cannot apply for the F-1 visa more than 90 days before the registration date indicated on the I-20 form. The timetable for visa processing can vary widely depending on the volume of applications processed by an individual consulate or embassy. Notifications of acceptance or denial can range from one to ten weeks. June, July, and August are the busiest months for visa processing. **Students cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the program start date on the I-20.**

Please visit the Study in the States website at *studyinthestates.dha.gov*

Christ-Centered Educational Excellence

2211 W Germann Rd | Chandler, AZ 85286 | 480.245.7988 | info@tcawarriors.org

Tuition & Required Fees

2026-2027

Grades K5-6th	$7,500.00
Grades 7th – 12th	$7,800.00
I-20	$600.00

Process for Obtaining an F-1 Visa

STEP 1

Apply for admission to the U.S. school.

Complete Tri-City Christian Academy's online international student application.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

June 1 for August admission (fall semester)
October 1 for January admission (spring semester)

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please make sure all forms have all required signatures. Admissions proceedings will not be initiated until all forms are complete and all documents received.

1. Transcripts (translated in English) of all academic work completed from grade 7 to present
2. Birth Certificate (with English translation)
3. Copy of passport identification page
4. Proof of Financial Support – letter from employer verifying annual income or letter from bank verifying savings accounts and current balance
5. Health History and Physical Examination Forms
6. Immunizations Verification Form
7. Guardianship Forms
8. Statement of Intent (beginning fall 2023, all incoming international students must agree to attend a church approved by the administration)
9. ZOOM interview with Principal
10. English Language Proficiency Exam: We accept the iTEP SLATE, TOEFL or TOEFL Junior.
    Exceptions are made on a case by case basis.
    Grades 3-12: iTEP SLATE, minimum score of 4
    Grades 3-8: TOEFL Junior, minimum score of 3
    Grades 9-12: TOEFL iBT, minimum score of 61
    Grades 9-12: TOEFL ITP, minimum score of 500

STEP 2

TCA makes a decision regarding admission.

The application will be evaluated for requirements regarding academic ability, English language proficiency, and financial ability. Applicants who are selected for admission will be provided with the I-20 immigration document and will then pay the initial I-20 application fee of $600.00 (One time, non-refundable).

STEP 3

The school prepares the I-20 form for the guardian to pick up and send to the prospective student.

The official name for the I-20 Form is the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status for Academic and Language Students. Approved schools may issue I-20's for one year or multiple years to cover the duration of a student's program.

STEP 4

The student applies for a visa.

After receiving the I-20, the student must apply in person for a visa at the nearest United States consulate or embassy in his/her home country. For specific information regarding consulates and embassies worldwide, refer to the State Department website at *usembassy.state.gov*.

STEP 5

Preparing for the consular interview.

Consider taking the following items to the interview:

- Completed Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application form DS0-160, with a photo and receipt for any required visa processing fees.
- Completed I-20 from the school you plan to attend
- Passport, which must be valid for at least 6 months after the proposed date of entry into the U.S.
- Financial documentation that shows sufficient funds to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, books, and other related expenses
- Evidence of English language proficiency sufficient for course of study
- 2 x 2 inch photograph
- Evidence of intent to depart the U.S. after completion of studies
- Required proof of having paid the I-901 SEVP fee
- Machine Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee
- Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable)
- Transcripts of previous schoolwork

STEP 6

Schedule the consular interview.

These interviews are conducted by U.S. State Department Consular Officers and take place at the embassy or consulate. Some consulates/embassies request that students submit the required documentation before scheduling the interview, and others conduct the entire process on the same day.

The purpose of this interview is for a consular officer to determine:

- the student's academic interests and English language proficiency.
- the applicant is a legitimate candidate for a student visa.
  - ⇒ The student should be ready to prove that he/she is seeking a visa only for educational purposes and not planning to stay in the U.S. Be prepared to show ties to home country: evidence of a family business or family-owned real estate.

Here are some sample questions:

- Why are you going to the U.S.?
- Tell me about the school and why you wish to enroll there.
- What does the school offer that your current school does not?
- Where is the school located?
- How will studying at the school benefit you when you return home?
- What are your test scores and GPA?
- How will you manage the cultural and educational differences in the U.S.?
- How much does your school cost?
- How do you plan to fund the entire duration of your education?
- Do you have a copy of your bank statement?
- Do you have relatives or friends currently in the U.S.?
- What are your plans after graduation?
- Are you sure you won't stay in the U.S.?

STEP 7

The student arrives in the U.S.

During the flight to the U.S., the student will be given the I-94 card (Arrival/Departure Record) to complete. At the Port of Entry, the student will go through customs. The student's fingerprints will be scanned and a digital photograph will be taken. The following documents must be presented to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official:

1. Valid passport and visa
2. I-20 Form and acceptance letter from school
3. Completed I-94 card
4. Evidence of financial support
5. Paper receipt of Form I-901

STEP 8

The school is notified of the student's arrival in the U.S.

Although the student's arrival is noted in SEVIS, please contact Jenny Beachler, the Director of International Programs at Tri-City Christian Academy, regarding the outcome of your consular interview and the date of your arrival in the U.S. Notification can be e-mailed to jenny.beachler@tcawarriors.org

STEP 9

The student reports to the school.

The student should report to the school immediately after his/her arrival in Phoenix. At that time, copies will be made of his/her visa and I-901 form.