



Hamilton High School
3700 S. Arizona Ave. Chandler, AZ 85248
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www.hamiltonhuskies.com

International Student Program

Hamilton High School, established in 1998 is a four-year (grades 9-12) comprehensive high school located in the southeastern part of the City of Chandler, Arizona. The school follows a district-wide modified year round calendar. Hamilton High School offers outstanding curriculum, comprehensive fine arts and athletics programs, and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. State of the art technology enhances students' learning, presentation, and research capabilities. Students at Hamilton High School are expected to make use of an array of technological tools to enhance their learning. Computer labs are available and allow students to develop their own interactive presentations using sound, video, animation, graphics and texts. In keeping with the school's philosophy, an integrated curriculum is a primary goal.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT F-1 VISAS

Please visit the Study in the States website at: www.studyinthestates.dhs.gov

In order for international students to enroll at school in the United States, they must obtain an F-1 (student) visa. To obtain an F-1 visa, a student must show the government:

- An I-20 form properly issued in SEVIS (government computer program) by a school approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- A passport valid for at least 6 months.
- Intention to stay in the United States temporarily (no longer than 1 year at a public high school) and only for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study.
- Proof of a residence outside the U.S. to which the student intends to return after completing the temporary period of study.
- Financial ability to cover the cost of education and living expenses in the U.S.
- Proof of having paid the SEVIS fee.

Students should plan ahead for their study in the U.S. and should allow plenty of time for visa processing. U.S. 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 a student 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. Students must leave the U.S. for their home country no more than 30 days after the program end date on the I-20.**

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AN F-1 VISA

Step 1: Apply for admission to the U.S. school. Complete Hamilton High School's international student application (available on this website)

Step 2: Hamilton High School makes a decision regarding admission.

Step 3: The school prepares the I-20 form for the guardian to pick up and send to the prospective student. At this time, tuition must be paid with a certified check or money order. The cost is \$7482 for the year or \$3741 for the semester. The official name for the I-20 Form is the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status for Academic and Language Students. Hamilton High School may issue I-20 for one semester or one year only. Please note that the one year restriction at a public high

school is non-negotiable per the federal government. After one year, students either return to their home country or transfer to a private school.

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 U.S. consulate or embassy in his/her home country. For specific information regarding consulates and embassies worldwide, refer to the State Department website at www.usembassy.state.gov

Step 5: Call ahead to schedule an appointment at the U.S. consulate or embassy and to confirm what documents are needed. The student should take the following documents when applying for a visa:

- 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 etc.
- 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 SEVIS fee. <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/>
- Machine Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee
- Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable)
- Transcripts of previous schoolwork

Step 6: The Consular/Embassy Interview

The purpose of the interview is for a consular officer to determine the student's academic interests and English language proficiency. It is also the consular official's job to ensure that the applicant is a legitimate candidate for a student visa and is not entering the U.S. for some other reason- such as immigration. To prove that students are seeking a visa only for educational purposes, they will be asked to show proof of ties to their home country. Example of such ties might include evidence of a family business or family-owned real estate. If close family members have previously studied in the U.S. and then returned home, this information might also serve as evidence of ties to the home country.

Applicants should be prepared to answer a variety of questions. The consular official's job is to learn about the student and why he/she wishes to study in the U.S. During the visa application process, usually at the interview, an ink-free, digital fingerprint scan will be quickly taken. The official will also want to know why the student wishes to attend a particular school. The student may be asked about the documentation he/she has provided, and the official may want to see copies of materials sent to the school (such as transcripts and test scores). Sample questions may include:

- *Tell me about this school and why you wish to enroll there? What does it offer that your current school does not?
- *Where is the school located? (Be prepared to point out the location on a map in the U.S.)
- *Who is the head of the school or director of admissions?
- *Why do you wish to study in the U.S.?
- *How will studying at this school benefit you when you return home?

If the student visa application is approved, the student will be given an F-1 visa stamp in his/her passport. This stamp will indicate:

- *Where the visa was issued
- *Date the visa will expire
- *Number of entries permitted- a multiple-entry visa enables a student to enter and leave the U.S. as many times as indicated on the document. A single entry visa will require the student to obtain a new visa every time he/she travels outside of the U.S. in order to return.
- *Type of visa
- *visa number

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. Sealed envelope with I-20
3. Completed I-94 card
4. Any other requested information (financial documents, admission letter, etc.)
5. Proof of having paid the SEVIS I-901 fee may be required

The customs official will:

1. Scan fingerprints and take digital photograph
2. Return the passport/visa with an entry stamp
3. Return the I-94 card with an entry stamp – usually the card will be stapled to the student’s passport. The card will be marked with the date and place of entry, the student’s status as an F-1 student, a unique admission number and the period of admissions shown as “duration of status” (abbreviated “DS”)
4. Return the I-20 to the student with the entry stamp in the right-hand corner.

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 Rosemary Gallo, the PDSO at Hamilton High School, regarding the outcome of your consular interview and the date of your arrival in the U.S. Notification can be e-mailed to gallo.rosemary@cusd80.com

Step 9: The student reports to the school.

The student should report to the school after his/her arrival for registration. At that time, copies will be made of his/her I-20, passport, and visa; these copies will be placed in the student’s file at the school.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

May 1 for July admission (fall semester)

October 1 for January admission (spring semester)

Please submit all documents by the above dates; failure to do so will delay the processing of the application.

Mail completed application to:

Hamilton High School
3700 S. Arizona Ave.
Chandler, AZ 85248
Attn: Rosemary Gallo

Foreign Student Admissions I-20 Packet Checklist

- Completed and signed HHS Application for I-20
- Authorization for Adult to Act as Custodial Parent * - MUST BE NOTARIZED
- Copy of Student Birth Certificate- TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
- Copy of Student Passport
- Student Transcripts or Record of Courses Taken – TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
- Student Immunization Record:
 - 3 Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (most recent vaccine must be within the last 5 years)
 - 3 Polio vaccines
 - 2 MMR vaccines (first on or after first birthdate)
 - 3 Hepatitis B vaccines
 - 1 Meningococcal vaccine
 - 1 Varicella (Chicken Pox). Students beginning the vaccine at 13+ years of age need two doses at least four weeks apart. As of 9/1/11, students from out of state/country will need to show laboratory evidence of immunity or the required immunizations.
- Open Enrollment Application (Only if Hamilton is not Host Parent/Guardian's home school)
- Copy of Host Guardian Identification – Driver's License or Passport
- Verification of Address for Host Parent-Guardian – Utility bill, etc.
- Proof of Medical Insurance
- Affidavit of Support
- Copy of Bank statement. International students must present satisfactory evidence of adequate funds available to meet financial obligations at Hamilton High School.
- Bank or Institution payable to Hamilton High School
 - * in the amount of \$7,482 U.S. dollars for a full school year OR
 - * in the amount of \$3741 U.S. dollars for one semester.