Establishing your Ability to Cover the Costs of Study

If you will be coming to the U.S. to study at Widener University and need to be sponsored by the University for F-1 or J-1 status, you must be able to establish your ability to cover the costs associated with your studies.

Since international students have very limited ability to work in the U.S. and cannot rely on the ability to work outside the school to meet their financial needs. Before the University can issue your immigration documents you must supply documentation showing you have the funds for the first year of study and have the reasonable expectation of being able to cover the rest of your studies. The following information is intended to provide you with guidance on the type of documentation needed. If your financial support comes from a combination of sources, you will need to document each source.

**DOCUMENTING FUNDS FROM YOURSELF**

If you will be financing your own education, you must provide the following documentation:

- A letter from your bank or financial institution indicating: the current balance of the account, when the account was opened and the average monthly balance of the account
- We will need copies of the last six months’ bank statements showing the activity on the account. These are statements routinely provided by banks to their customers. These are necessary to help the University determine that you can actually afford to pay the cost of tuition.

**DOCUMENTING FUNDS FROM AN INDIVIDUAL (RELATIVES, FRIENDS, ETC.)**

If your financial support comes in part or in total from private individuals such as family, you must provide one of the following documentation:

- A notarized letter from your relative clearly stating the amount of support they will provide (expressed in U.S. dollars) together with copies of the last six months’ bank statements showing the activity on the account. These are statements routinely provided by banks to their customers. These are necessary to help the University determine that the individual can actually afford to pay the cost of tuition.
- A letter from the bank or financial institution that has the original bank stamp and must indicate the followings: the current balance of the account, when the account was opened and the average monthly balance of the account.
**DOCUMENTING FUNDS FROM A SCHOLARSHIP**

If you have received a scholarship, you must provide documentation of this award. Please supply a copy of the scholarship award letter. This documentation must indicate the amount of money provided and the period covered.

**DOCUMENTING FUNDS FROM A UNIVERSITY ASSISTANTSHIP OR FELLOWSHIP**

If the University has given you an assistantship or fellowship, please provide a copy of any letter or correspondence you have received from the University confirming the terms of the award.

**DOCUMENTING FUNDS FROM A LOAN**

If you have applied for an obtained a loan, please provide copies of the approval of the loan. We cannot issue immigration documentation based solely on evidence indicating that you have applied for a loan.

**DOCUMENTING FUNDS FROM A COMPANY**

If a company will be paying all or some of your costs, we will require confirmation of this from the company. An original letter from the company, printed on its official letterhead, confirming its financial support is required. The letter must indicate how much support (estimated in U.S. dollars) it will provide, how long the company intends to provide support. Additionally, the company must provide evidence of its ability to pay the costs of tuition and/or any living expenses. Evidence of the company’s ability to pay the costs of study may include, but is not limited to providing a copy of the company’s annual report (if available) or providing a notarized letter from the company’s bank indicating the company’s financial standing (date the account was opened, average monthly balance and current balance.)