



GENERAL INFORMATION & CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION FOR IEP STUDENTS (F-1 STATUS)

Cultural Center for Language Studies

INTRODUCTION

CCLS offers a unique and successful approach to language learning which focuses on interactive lessons with multimedia support. Language students worldwide have participated in and benefited from our intensive English programs. CCLS is accredited by ACCET (Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training) and authorized under American Federal Law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students (student visa F-1).

CCLS MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to contribute to an individual's education by teaching languages and providing insights into other cultures, thereby fostering personal and professional growth which will help students become informed and active members of society."

To achieve this, trained, motivated teachers use interactive educational techniques and technology to obtain excellence in teaching.

COURSE STRUCTURE

CCLS' unique interactive multimedia method emphasizes student participation in class. English is the only language spoken in class, so students notice immediate improvement in their conversation skills. All our teachers are qualified professionals, carefully trained in our methodology. CCLS students have free, unlimited access to our language lab and enjoy unlimited after-class activities that will help them improve their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills.

CERTIFICATES

CCLS issues Certificates of Completion to students who successfully complete their course of study.

CCLS INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAMS (IEP)

CCLS' Intensive English Program consists of thirteen courses of two months each; please check the school calendar for start/end dates. The program is divided in four levels of instruction: Basic level (3 courses), Intermediate level (3 courses), High Intermediate level (3 courses) and Advanced level (4 courses).

Basic to Advanced Level Courses: EEC / CSK courses

English for Effective Communication and Communication Skills – These courses were designed for young adult and adult students who wish to learn how to communicate accurately and effectively in everyday situations such as conversing at a bank, restaurant, airport, workplace, etc. The courses place a premium on oral skills but also address reading and writing. Students will benefit from and improve their communication skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Students interested in pursuing college and university studies will greatly benefit from the advanced courses as they develop critical thinking and also writing skills.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND FEES

For tuition and enrollment fees, please refer to the Intensive English program cost chart on our website:

Tuition fee

| | | | |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|
| Monday to Thursday – 29 days of classes | 9AM-1:30PM | 2PM-6:30PM | 5:30PM-10PM |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|

Students will be assigned morning or afternoon schedules according to their level of instruction. The evening schedule is offered on a need basis.

PLACEMENT TEST

Oral and online written placement tests are available at no additional charge for non-beginner level students. The oral placement may be administered over the phone or via WhatsApp and the written placement may be taken online once the visa is approved. To be eligible to take the placement tests, students must have paid the application fee.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Registration is open year-round, and classes start every eight weeks (except December). International students have different program options:

- a) They may join our IEP group classes.
- b) They may choose a private tuition program.
- c) They may form an IEP semi-private or corporate group of their own.

All program options require 18 hours per week of teacher led classes in order to qualify for the F-1 student visa. Please ask for further information about private and corporate group tuition fees at info@cclsmiami.edu

HOW TO APPLY

In order to apply for the F-1 student visa from abroad, the applicant (or their legal guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18) should do the following:

1. Fill out and sign the Application for Admission Form online: [Application-form](#)
2. Fill out and sign the Certificate of Financial Support Form online : [financial-support-certificate](#)
3. Attach certification of financial support (see below) to the Certificate of Financial Support
4. Attach a copy of the identification page of the applicant's passport
5. Submit the above documentation to CCLS along with the non-refundable application fee of USD\$125 or USD\$200 (for change of status), and non-refundable courier fee (as described on the Application for Admission form). To avoid a courier fee, students or their appointees may opt to pick up the I-20 form directly from the school.
6. F-1 status students who are currently in the U.S. and maintain legal status may transfer their SEVIS record to CCLS. They need to fill out the Application for Admission form, pay the application fee, fill out the Transfer Form, and submit it to the DSO of their current school along with CCLS acceptance letter. This process must be completed before the current program end date stated on the I-20. The courier fee is waived in this case.

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7. If the applicant currently holds legal status in the U.S. and wishes to change his/her status to F-1, s/he should contact CCLS Miami for information. Tourists under the visa waiver program (ESTA) cannot apply for change of status. They must apply for a student visa in their country of origin/residence. Students changing status from B-1 and B-2 visas may not start their course of study until their petition is approved by the USCIS.

ACCEPTABLE CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT (ONE OF THE FOLLOWING)

1. A current personal bank statement or a letter in English, Spanish or Portuguese from the student's bank or any other financial document showing that the student has sufficient funds to pay for school, housing, food, and any incidental expenses during his/her stay in the U.S.; **OR**
2. Current evidence of financial responsibility such as tax return, paycheck stubs, rentals or any other financial document that shows the student will support him/herself in the U.S.; **OR**
3. Both a sponsorship letter/affidavit of support (in English, Spanish or Portuguese) from the student's parents or other source of support (a relative, an employer, etc.) stating they will be responsible for the student's expenses during his/her stay in the USA, **AND** evidence of the sponsors financial responsibility (see items 1 or 2 above) **OR**
4. An official scholarship letter (in English, Spanish or Portuguese) from the student's employer or other organization that will cover all his/her school and living expenses in the US.

NOTES

- The above documentation is required for the issuance of the I-20 form.
- As the applicant will need to present the same financial documentation to the American embassy or consulate in his/her country of origin, CCLS suggests that students only send CCLS copies of the above listed financial documentation.
- If the sponsor is a permanent resident or citizen of the USA, s/he may fill out Form I-134 at [Form I-34](#). Otherwise, a notarized letter stating intent will suffice.
- The student should contact the American consular office in his/her country of origin and inquire about their time frame to set an interview appointment. That information will help the student plan accordingly and process his/her documentation before the program start date.
- Students applying for an F-1 visa need to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee prior to their interview at the U.S. embassy or consular office. The fee is USD\$350 and may be paid online at: [Form I-901](#). CCLS may process the I-901 fee payment on behalf of the applicant. Check the appropriate box on the application form. There is no fee for this service.
- CCLS will not return any documentation or forms sent to the school for the processing of the I-20 form.

UNDERAGE STUDENTS

Students must be at least 14 years old to study at CCLS. Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by or staying with an adult who will take responsibility for the minor during his/her stay in Miami. CCLS takes no responsibility for its students outside the school premises.

FORMS OF PAYMENT

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We accept wire transfer, money orders in US dollars, checks payable by a US bank, Zelle transfers, and credit cards (American Express, Visa, and Master Card) for the payment of application, courier, and tuition fees.

PAYMENTS MADE THROUGH AGENTS

Students may enlist the help of educational or travel agents to fill out forms and process payments to CCLS on their behalf. Students must be aware that, in case they are entitled to any refunds pursuant to the Refund policy, students' monies collected by CCLS authorized agents will be refunded by the agents, not by CCLS. CCLS will not be held responsible for any engagements students enter with educational or travel agents. However, CCLS will ensure and document that the refund has been made on behalf of the student to the agent.

AFTER THE APPLICATION IS PROCESSED

CCLS will process the student's application in approximately three business days upon receipt of the complete documentation and application fee payment. If the student's application is accepted, CCLS will issue and mail the I-20 to the student along with a letter of acceptance. If the application for admission is not accepted, CCLS will inform the student or his/her agent by email.

F-1 STUDENT VISA APPLICATION AT THE US EMBASSY/CONSULATE IN THE STUDENT'S HOME COUNTRY

The applicant will present the following documents to the consular officer:

1. Form I-20 issued by CCLS, dated and signed by the applicant;
2. CCLS letter of acceptance;
3. * Form I-901(SEVIS) fee receipt;
4. Evidence that the student/sponsor has financial resources to pay for the student's studies and personal expenses in the U.S.;
5. Applicant's passport, valid for the duration of his/her stay in the U.S. plus six months;
6. Form DS-160, available from the consulate website;
7. A payment receipt of the visa processing fees, including dependents (information available at [Visa fee](#) (select your country));
8. ** Evidence that the applicant will return to his/her country of origin upon completion of his/her studies in the U.S.

NOTES

* The I-901 payment can only be made after the I-20 has been issued by CCLS.

** The F-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa. It means CCLS F-1 visa holders cannot work legally in the U.S. The port-of-entry officers may request that applicants demonstrate that they intend to return to their home country. Evidence of intent may be (examples):

- a. Letter from current or prospective employer supporting the student's studies in the U.S. guaranteeing his/ her position upon return from the U.S.;
- b. Proof that the applicant's family (spouse and children) will remain in his/her home country;
- c. Documents showing ownership of assets or family business in the applicant's country of origin;

d. Evidence that the applicant is financially stable and has no interest in immigrating to the U.S. If applicable, the applicant's most recent income tax return and/or paycheck stub should be provided to the consular officer.

STUDENT VISA INTERVIEW

The consular interview is a serious and formal event, and the candidate must be respectful and dress accordingly. The interviewee must be prepared to answer the consul's questions in a succinct and confident manner. Some of the most common questions are:

1. Why do you wish to study English in the U.S. when there are excellent English institutes in your own country?
2. How will this language program help you accomplish your goals when you return home?
3. Why did you choose CCLS Miami for your English studies?

Note that answers such as "They speak proper English in the USA"; or "I would like to visit the USA"; or "It's cool to travel to the USA"; or "I can't understand when Americans speak" are not plausible responses. The student visa is granted to applicants who need to learn English quickly and effectively for professional, personal, or academic goals. Maybe the student wants to advance his/her language studies in a short time; be accepted at a Master's or PhD program in the U.S. or his/her country; obtain a promotion at his/her current job; expand his/her business contacts internationally; or any other number of reasons that would justify the investment (of resources and time) required to take a language program in the U.S. Otherwise, the consul may determine the student's intentions to be frivolous or believe that s/he does not have a good enough reason to study in the U.S or return home after his/her studies.

The following document offers 10 good tips for the interview: www.nafsa.org/10points

The consular officer will make the final decision to grant or deny a student visa.

FIRST COURSE PAYMENT

The full payment of tuition for at least the first month of classes **must** be received by CCLS **within five business days** of the student's visa petition approval and prior to the student's arrival in the USA. If the student fails to make the payments as indicated, CCLS may cancel the student's application and SEVIS record. A payment receipt will be sent to the student to show at the U.S. port of entry along with his/her I-20 and passport.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL, TRANSFER, COURSE CANCELLATION, AND REFUND POLICY

The refund policy is described below:

1. Refunds
 - 1.1 Full Refund of Tuition
 1. If the program/course of study is cancelled by CCLS. If it is the first course, application fees are also refunded.
 2. If a student is denied the F-1.
 3. If the student has not entered the U.S and cancels his program. The student Form I-20 will be cancelled.

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1.2 Partial Tuition Refund

1. If a student has entered the US and cancels prior to the beginning of the first course or never attends classes:

- a. CCLS will retain four weeks of tuition charges if the student has enrolled for fewer than 12 weeks.
- b. CCLS will retain six weeks of tuition charges if the student has enrolled for 12 weeks or more.

2. If an active student withdraws at or before the first course midpoint, CCLS will retain four weeks of tuition.

If a continuing student withdraws at or before a course's mid-point CCLS will retain a prorated amount of tuition fees for that course. Any tuition paid for the balance of the program will be refunded in full. The prorated calculation will be made in weeks up to the last day of attendance. CCLS will consider a partial week the same as if a whole week were completed, provided the student was present at least one day during the scheduled week.

In all refund cases excepting 1.1. above, discounts based on prepayment of multiple courses are voided and the courses taken will be recalculated according to the full tuition fee. All other discounts will be voided.

1.3 Ineligibility for Refund

If a student withdraws after the midpoint of any course, CCLS will retain all of the charges for that course.

2 Non-refundable Fees

1. The application fee and the courier fee (as described on the Application for Admission form) are non-refundable, except in 1.1.1. above.
2. Materials in possession of the student are not refundable.
3. The SEVIS fee (I-901) is not refundable under any circumstances.

3 Method of Refund Payment

1. All refunds will be processed via Zelle, unless the student does not use the Zelle app. In that case, please see below.
2. Fees paid in cash will be refunded in cash if up to \$50 (fifty dollars).
3. Fees paid in cash (over \$50) or by check are refunded by a CCLS check.
4. Refunds of fees paid by check will be processed only after the bank has cleared the original payment.
5. CCLS prefers that the student or their assignee collect their refund checks, unless the student does not live in Miami at the time the refund is completed. CSAs will document check mailing date.
6. Payments made with a credit card will be refunded to the same credit card used for payment. If the student cannot produce the credit card on site for a refund, CCLS will issue a check.
7. Payments made via wire transfer will be refunded via check or wire transfer minus bank processing charges, unless CCLS has cancelled the course/program.
8. All refunds are made to the payer. Please make sure CCLS has in fact received the original payment before giving the payer any refund. Checks must have been cleared by the bank.

Students are responsible for securing CCLS has a secondary channel of payment if his/her first option is not viable.

4 Refund Timeline

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1. Initial status student: All applicable refunds to applicants who have never attended class or cancel prior to the class start date will be made within forty-five (45) calendar days of the first scheduled day of class or the date of cancellation, whichever is earlier.
2. All applicable refunds to active students will be made within forty-five (45) calendar days of the documented date of determination. The date of determination is the date the student withdraws or the date on which CCLS terminates the student for being absent for thirty (30) consecutive calendar days (excluding any scheduled school breaks) or due to the student's failure to adhere to the institution's attendance and conduct policies, whichever is earlier.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

In order to maintain good academic standing, students must meet all the requirements below:

- receive a cumulative weighted grade of at least 70% for each course
- meet CCLS 80% cumulative attendance requirements
- not repeat the same course more than twice

International students enrolled for one course or in their last course must meet minimum attendance of 80% and 70% final grade. If not, their SEVIS record will be terminated at the end of the term for not being in compliance with the international student visa requirements.

CCLS' grading policy for each course is as follows:

| <u>EEC Courses</u> | | <u>CSK Courses</u> | |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Attendance | 10% | Attendance | 10% |
| Participation | 10% | Participation | 10% |
| Assignments | 10% | Assignments | 10% |
| Oral Exam | 35% | Oral Presentations | 40% |
| Written Exams | 35% | Exams | 30% |

EEC-English for Effective Communication

CSK- Communication Skills

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION

CCLS offers recommendations for accommodation and transportation services and is happy to assist students as they make these decisions. Please contact info@cclsmiami.edu

TRAVEL INSURANCE

The U.S.A does not provide free health care to international students. Travel insurance is not mandatory, but all students should purchase travel/health insurance valid for the duration of their course of study and provide their agents or CCLS with their travel insurance information upon enrollment. If a student refuses to acquire medical insurance, s/he will accept full responsibility for any medical expenses incurred while studying in the U.S.A.

We strongly recommend students acquire health insurance in their countries of origin as they may obtain better rates, coverage and pay in their own currency. If the student desires to obtain coverage in the USA, some of the most popular insurers are:

Global Student USA - www.insubuy.com

HTH Worldwide- www.hthworldwide.com/insurance_intstudents.html

Compass - www.compassstudenthealthinsurance.com

Gateway USA - www.gatewayplans.com/gw_usa/

International Student Protection - www.intlstudentprotection.com

ISO Med - www.isoa.org/iso_med_main.aspx

HOLIDAYS AND UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

There is no tuition refund as a result of classes missed due to unscheduled holidays, unforeseen circumstances or Acts of God, unless CCLS is unable to resume classes within 10 (ten) business days. Program end dates will be postponed to accommodate make-up lessons for the above mentioned reasons.

CCLS will not be liable for its inability to render services that are impossible to supply for reasons that are beyond the control of CCLS and its representatives.

OUR LOCATION

CCLS is located in the heart of Miami, Florida (The Sunshine State), a few miles south of Downtown, at 3191 Coral Way. The neighborhood is a very safe residential/commercial area. There is a shopping mall a few yards away from CCLS. There are a variety of conventional restaurants (American, Chinese, Italian, and Latin-American fare) and fast-food places and pizzerias close to our school, as well as a full-size supermarket within walking distance. There is a café that serves breakfast, lunch and snacks in the CCLS building. There is bus service to Downtown Miami, Coconut Grove and Coral Gables commercial district.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

CCLS is affiliated with some American universities and is happy to assist students transfer once they have completed their language studies.