Frequently Asked Questions

1) What should I do if I don't have all the information needed, since I cannot save my I-20 request as I'm working on it?
You must wait until you have all the information to start the I-20 request form, since you cannot save your information as you go along.

2) Do I really need an I-20?
Yes. You cannot get an F-1 visa without it.

3) What is SCP?
SCP is the Summer Certificate in English Proficiency program. Go to www.pratt.edu/iep.

4) I am not sure I will be taking the Summer Certificate in English Proficiency. Should I apply for my I-20 now?
No. Please make a decision and apply for SCP before you request your I-20.

5) Do I have to show the total amount of finances for all years of school or just the first year?
Just for the first year. Financial statements must be shown for the first year. We will ask you where the rest of the money is coming from on the Certification of Funds, but financial statements only need to back up the first year of expenses.

6) Where should I get my visa?
You must go to the nearest US Consulate or Embassy. You should make an appointment for the visa interview. Often, you will need your SEVIS ID number to make the appointment.

7) What visa do I need?
You will apply for an F-1 visa.

8) Can I get a visa in the US?
No. A visa is only issued abroad at a US Embassy Consulate.

9) I am a transfer student and have a visa from my previous school. Do I need a new visa?
No. You do not need a new visa if the original F-1 visa is still valid.

10) I am returning after a leave of absence. I have a valid visa. Do I need a new one?
Yes. If you have been out of the US longer than 5 months, you need to apply for a new F-1 visa.

11) How can I change my immigration status to F-1 if I am in another status now?
You have 2 choices. You can either apply to change your status in the US, or you can travel and acquire a new visa at a US Consulate or Embassy.

12) How long will it take to get my I-20?
When your I-20 request is complete, it takes about 2 weeks to issue an I-20.
13) How will you send me the I-20?
   We send I-20's Express mail by UPS. It takes about 3 business days. You will get an email with the tracking number to track your package. You pay $40 for this service.

14) What if I can't show the total amount of estimated funds in a financial statement? Can I show a Life Insurance Policy, mortgage, salary of sponsor, or stocks?
   The only acceptable funds are liquid funds. That means the funds must be available without significant movement in price and with minimum loss of value. Therefore, Life Insurance, a mortgage, proof of salary of sponsor or stocks are not acceptable.

15) Where should I send the supplemental information?
   Pratt Institute Office of International Affairs 200 Willoughby Ave.
   Brooklyn, NY 11205 Tel. +1-718-636-3674

16) Can I fax the supplemental information?
   No. You have to send original documents in the mail.

17) I have an appointment for a visa interview, but don't have my I-20. What should I do?
   You must reschedule your interview. You cannot have your interview without your I-20.

18) I booked my flight, but do not have an I-20 or visa. What happens if I enter the country without an F-1 visa?
   Students in B1/B2 or visa waivers cannot study in the US. You will not be allowed to register for classes.

19) Does Pratt give scholarships to International Students?
   Pratt awards a limited number of merit scholarships to new students. Some departments also award scholarships. Financial Aid (from the US government) is not available to international students.

20) The I-20 deadline has already passed. What should I do?
   You must submit your I-20 request immediately. Because it is after the deadline, your application will be at the bottom and may be delayed. Please plan accordingly.

21) What does Room and Board mean?
   Room means a place to live and board means daily food. Some students have a place to live without cost and are provided with food there. These students have a room and board sponsor. The equivalent amount of money for room and board will be deducted from the total amount of money needed to show in a financial statement. The sponsor will need to provide an affidavit of support and proof of residence.

22) I am using my own funds to support myself. Do I need to submit an affidavit of support?
   No.

23) Can I pay the $40 UPS shipping fee by credit card?
   No. We only accept payment by check or money order in USD.
24) Since I cannot save the on-line I-20 request, is there a time limit to complete it?
   Yes. You have 60 minutes per page.