

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

PREPARATION

GUIDE

2024-2025



RENAISSANCE
A·C·A·D·E·M·Y

welcome

Congratulations on joining Renaissance Academy. Everyone at Renaissance Academy is excited to have you join our school community. We know you will enjoy the STEAM education, engaging academics, enrichment courses, much more, We look forward to seeing you meet many new friends and enjoy the privilege of this opportunity.

Throughout this year, you may have questions but know that you have a wonderful support team: your principal, your teachers, and all our staffs! We will be with you from now to the last day of your education at Renaissance Academy. We are always available by email before you travel and when school starts. When you are on campus, our office door are always open to you too.

Now that you have been accepted as international Students, you have a lot of planning, preparation, and packing to do. Carefully read through this packet to help you prepare to your trip, your school experience, and your new adventure.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Preparation

Before you depart

There are many details to know as you prepare to get your F-1 Visa to become an international student. Many of these details are very important and cannot be skipped; deadlines and time frames need to be followed. Please read through this carefully. If you have any questions, please contact the Admissions Office.

1. Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee:

Once you have received your I-20, you must pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee of approximately \$350 to confirm your acceptance to Renaissance Academy. To pay the I-901 fee please visit: www.fmjfee.com. PRINT the I-901 receipt. You will need it at your visa interview, during travel, and you must submit it to our school when you arrive.

Then, submit your application for your Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160) online and submit a student photo. Please find the application at



<https://ccac.state.gov/genniy/>. You must pay any related fees (approximately \$160). Once your application is complete, PRINT this document, which you will need at your interview, during travel, and will be submitted to the school when you arrive.

2. Make an appointment at the consulate:

Make your appointment at the U.S. consulate for your interview. Visit:

<https://www.usembassy.gov/> to schedule. Your F-1 Visa cannot be issued earlier than 4 months prior to the program start date. Your program start date is August 27, 2024, the date of the required International Student Orientation. Also, keep in mind that the visa will take time to be ready for pick up appointments can book up well in advance.

3. Prepare for the U.S. Consulate and interview:

Prepare for your interview by making sure you have the following items with you:

Visa Application DS-160 fee receipt

SEVIS I-902 fee receipt

Valid Passport

Form I-20 from Renaissance Academy

Letter of Acceptance from Renaissance Academy

Transcripts (Report Cards, Language Proficiency Test, etc.)

Demonstration of compelling evidence you have ties to return to your home country after studies are complete. During the interview it is very important to show that it is your intention to return home after your schooling is done. This will be a key component to a successful F-1 visa interviews.

PLEASE NOTE: The list of items above should always be with you during any time of travel from now until the end of your time at Renaissance Academy as an international student.

During the interview, you must prove your intent is to be a non-immigrant. Make sure you provide the consular office with evidence that you will be returning home after your period of study. Students are more successful at obtaining their student visas when they show they will be returning to their home country when their education is completed. It is also encouraged for older students (incoming 6th -8th graders) to do the speaking themselves during the visa interview rather than their parents. This will

help show English proficiency, which is another important factor in the interview process.

4. Do you need a Host family?

Renaissance Academy works some Homestay families for students entering the high school. If you need a host family, please inform the Admissions Office and contact our homestay coordinator at zoe@renaissanceacademy.co.

5. Reserve a flight:

International students are permitted to enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the start date listed on the Form I-20. August 25, 2024 is the date of International Student Orientation and is the program start date on your I-20. All new international families should make plans to be in the area no later than August 20 as International Student Orientation is required for all to attend. DO NOT enter the United States prior to the 30-day window, which could result in being turned away at the Port of Entry at your expense, and your I-20 and F-1 status will be compromised.

6. Double check to make sure you have your Immunization Records:

The state of California Requires all students to be fully vaccinated prior to the start of school. Your immunization records must be translated into English by a professional source, such as the “Immunization Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis” or a pre-printed” multi-language” hospital/physician immunization record. If there are any changes to your immunization record subsequent to the application process, please submit new documentation to the Admissions Office. Once Renaissance Academy Office reviews your records, you will be notified if your record is incomplete or missing a California state requirement.

For the list of California Immunization requirements, please go to:

www.shotsforschool.org.

7. Purchase Medical Insurance:

It is mandatory for students to have international medical insurance during their time at Renaissance Academy. This insurance is to cover any necessary hospital or medical care.

8. Start to pack:

Now it is time to prepare for the actual move. Start packing! See the “Packing” page for some helpful hints:

PLEASE NOTE: You must have your Form I-20 (for F-1 students), passport, acceptance letter, financial verification (bank statement), and proof of payment of SEVIS I-901 fee with you at the port of entry to the United States. Carry these items on the plane with you; do not pack them in your suitcase.



From the moment you arrive

1. Going through the Port of Entry

After you land in the United States, you will need to go through Customs at the Port of Entry. Go to the following webpage for helpful information to prepare for the US customs process: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/students>.

2. Get in contact:

Contact the Admissions Office when you have arrived. We are eager to see you for International Student Orientation, Onboarding days, and other fun welcome events.

3. Submit Documents and new information:

Please submit copies of your F-1 visa, I-901 at International Student Orientation.

4. TB Test:

Depending on your country of residence, Renaissance Academy may require an international student to have a one-time TB skin test, also known as a Mantoux skin test, after arriving in the United State and before the first day of school. The school will let you know if this requirement applies to you. This test must be done in the United States after you travel.

5. Unpack:

Unpack your bags, settle in, and relax.

6. Do something fun:

There is a lot to do in Rancho Santa Margarita and throughout Southern California.

7. Preparation for the upcoming school year:

We strongly recommend you plan your travel to arrive at the U.S. before the program start to give you time to get settled before the start of school.

Packing

You can buy almost anything once you are in the United States. Consider packing lightly and check with your airline carrier for restrictions about size and weight limitations before you have finished packing to avoid overweight fees for ***luggage***.

Documents to carry on the plane



Passport

F-1 Visa

Form I-20

Renaissance Academy Acceptance Letter

Proof of SEVIS I-901 payment

Emergency contact information (If not traveling with family)

Cash/Credit Cards

If you are coming without your parents, it is very important to get a MasterCard or Visa Credit card in your home country BEFORE you come to the U.S. as banks in the U.S. will not allow students under 18 to open an account by themselves.

It is a good idea to plan on having approximately \$50 a week available for items such as snacks, dinners out, movies, school activities, etc.

If you choose to not pack your lunch for school, hot lunch is available at Renaissance for an additional charge. The price of lunch is \$10 per meal.

Medicine

All prescription medication must be in the original pharmacy labeled container. Make sure to check with Customs on quantities you can bring in. If a student requires medication at school, a parent/guardian will need to meet with the nurse at school to review required paperwork. The paperwork will need to be completed and signed by a parent/guardian and a California physician. All prescription medication must be translated into English by a California pharmacist for the nurse to dispense at school. Medication may not be carried by a student or kept in a locker or backpack at any time.

School Supplies

Renaissance Academy has a list of supplies necessary for the start of school. This list will be provided to you over the summer on the New

We recommend you buy as many of the required items as you can once you arrive in the United States. However, if you want to bring pens, pencils, or a backpack that remind you of home, you are welcome to stores near the school where you can buy supplies include Target, Walmart, and Staples.



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welcome

Uniforms

No uniforms require in Renaissance Academy.

School Information

Call the school any time: 626-636-1308

Email the school any time: contact@renaissanceacademy.co

Report student absences using the general school number.

www.renaissanceacademy.com

325 N. Santa Anita Ave. Arcadia CA 91006

Office Hours—8:30am –4:30 pm

School Day Schedules

Standard Days: 8:30—3:45 pm

Minimum Days: 8:30-12:50pm

