Dear Prospective Graduate Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Winthrop University’s academic programs in the United States.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires that, in order to receive a form I-20 for your student visa, you must demonstrate that you have sufficient funding to cover your first year of educational and living expenses in the U.S. For the academic year **2015-2016 graduate students** and/or their sponsor(s) will need to provide proof of funds equal to **US $38,682.00**. Please note that although you are only required to document resources for your first academic year (nine months), you must also be prepared to fund all future years of study at Winthrop University. Your original documentation must be on file with the University before we issue the I-20 form. In addition, a second original must be available for embassy review when you apply for your student visa through a United States Embassy or Consulate.

Most families find the **Statement of Financial Responsibility and Affidavit of Support** plus an original bank statement or model bank letter (attached) to be the most efficient methods to document finances available for your education. Check with the local U.S. Embassy to determine the type of financial guarantee they require. If you choose to use the **Statement of Financial Responsibility and Affidavit of Support**, it must be accompanied by an original bank statement or official bank letter. Official bank letters must be produced on the letterhead of the issuing financial institution. If the account is in the name of an individual who is not the applicant (for example, your parents or a sponsoring agency) the letter must list you, the student, by name. It must state that the account holder (your parents or sponsor) will be responsible for your educational expenses at Winthrop University.

You should ask the financial institution to produce at least two certified original bank statements or letters. Both should be identical and issued no more than six months before your date of admission to the University. The second set of financial documents should be utilized during your student visa interview at the U.S. Embassy. Please note that photocopies cannot be accepted by Winthrop University and may not be accepted by the U.S. Embassy.

Please contact us if you have questions about the procedure described above.

Sincerely,

The International Center of Winthrop University
international@winthrop.edu
+1 803/323-2133
Bank Certification and Evidence of Financial Support

In order to receive an I-20 form for your student visa application, you must submit financial documentation showing that you have access to sufficient funds to cover the cost of your studies at Winthrop University. This Statement of Financial Responsibility and Affidavit of Support, when accompanied by an original bank statement or official bank letter, is one method of demonstrating access to funds.

Sources and amount of financial support in U.S. Dollars:
Your application must be accompanied by a bank statement or letter from the sponsor’s bank dated within six months of the start date at Winthrop University showing the amount of money guaranteed. If your sponsor is not your parent or yourself, please include a brief letter from your sponsor indicating their intention to support all of your expenses related to your education for the duration of your program. If you are sponsored by a private organization or government agency, provide an official copy of your award.

The approximate cost for graduate students for the 2015-2016 academic year (two semesters) at Winthrop University is $38,682.00. This includes tuition, fees, books, room, meals, health insurance, and personal expenses. The most current information on costs can be found out at www.winthrop.edu/international/costs. If your family accompanies you, an additional $5,000 per dependent will be necessary. Any scholarships that you receive will be deducted from the amount you are required to demonstrate you have.

From parents or self........................................................................................................................................ $ ____________
Financial aid from government agency, private foundations, bank or other agency.............................................................. $ ____________
Sponsor, other than parents................................................................................................................................. $ ____________
Total support for first year at Winthrop.............................................................................................................. $ ____________
(This amount must be at least the total listed at www.winthrop.edu/international/costs)

By signing your name to this form, you certify that the information you have given is a correct statement of the financial arrangements for your studies at Winthrop University.

Signature of applicant                                                                                     Month/Day/Year

Affidavit of Support

I,____________________________________, certify that I am able, willing and do promise to provide the minimum amount of U.S. $_____________________ for tuition, fees, living and personal expenses of ____________________________, my ____________________, while a student at Winthrop University.

(Name of Sponsor)                                                                                         (Name of Student)   (Relationship if any)

Evidence of my financial resources in the form of a bank letter or bank statement accompanies this affidavit.

_________________________________________________________                                                                                   Month/Day/Year
Signature of Sponsor

Applicant can sign if self-supporting
Model Bank Letter Format

(Please note this letter must be printed on original bank letterhead paper.)

Date

As of (insert date), (insert name of account holder) is a customer in good standing of (insert name of the bank).

To the best of our knowledge and belief, (insert name of account holder) has sufficient funds available to pay the U.S. $38,682.00 educational and living expenses for (insert name of student) while he/she is pursuing his/her graduate degree at Winthrop University in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Signature of Bank Officer

Name and Title of Bank Officer

Please send the completed letter (with original signature) to:

Winthrop University
International Center
218 Dinkins Hall
South Carolina 29733
United States of America
Telephone: +1 803/323-2133