

**Bellevue College
International High School Completion (IHSC) Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

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Questions

1. What is an International High School Completion program?

Bellevue College's (BC) International High School Completion (IHSC) is a program for qualified F-1 students who are 16- and 17-years old to be admitted to BC to take courses that count for both high school diploma and a transfer associate degree at the same time.

2. How long will it take to complete?

Most transfer associate degrees take about two years to complete, so the IHSC students may satisfy both requirements between two and three years. The length of the program differs depending on a few factors such as the amount of high school credits students have already finished in their home country, their BC's English and Math placement results, and class seating availability.

3. How much will the program cost?

The IHSC students pay the same [Lower Division Courses Non-Resident tuition and fees](#).

The estimated quarterly cost of tuition based on 15 credits (3 classes), fees, and the mandatory health insurance is \$3,700 excluding textbooks for the 2018-19 academic year.

4. Can I get a high school diploma only from BC?

BC's IHSC is not a stand-alone program, so the IHSC students are required to complete both high school graduation and a transfer associate degree requirements to earn the two credentials. Bellevue College is not a high school, so if students are more interested in a traditional high school setting and experiences, we recommend students find a SEVP-certified high school that can issue I-20 documents for F-1 visa students.

5. What are the special requirements for the IHSC program?

Students who are interested in the BC's IHSC program must meet all conditions:

- Be 16 years old or older before the first day of the quarter
- Be on a valid F-1 status to study full-time
- Have successfully completed the U.S. equivalent of 10th grade
- Not have already received a high school diploma or equivalent in your home country or in the US

6. How many years of high school should the student have already completed?

A student should successfully finish the 10th grade in an upper-secondary school. In rare occasion, an [underage student with exceptional or extenuating circumstance](#) may still be admitted on a case-by-case basis upon approval by the College's Chief Admissions officer or designee.

7. What are the application requirements?

Required Documents: Go to <https://international.bellevuecollege.edu/> and create a login. Then upload:

1. Online international student application form* including the signature document
2. A non-refundable \$50 application fee paid via online
3. All acceptance packets that need to be delivered to an address outside of the U.S. will be required to pay for the respective express mail fee via eShipGlobal site and upload the air bill with a complete mailing address
4. A copy of the passport photo page including expiration date
 - a. A copy of each F-2 dependent's passport photo page including expiration date
5. The most recent bank statement with a minimum balance of \$28,800 USD
 - a. Add \$5,000 USD for each F-2 dependent
 - b. A U.S.-based non-family, financial sponsor must complete the Affidavit of Support (I-134) form
6. Proof of English proficiency is required for the IHSC students seeking direct admission to the college-level
 - a. The IHSC student without proof of English language proficiency may start from the Intensive ESL program
7. High school transcript including the 9th grade professionally translated in to English
8. Completed and signed Power-of-Attorney (POA) and Attorney-in-Fact (AIF) forms.

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Students who are already studying in the US on an F-1 visa need these additional documents:

9. Copies of all I-20s, visa, and passport photo page.
10. Transcripts from all schools the student has attended in the US.
11. A completed and signed Transfer Eligibility Form.

*See the [online application instruction](#). If you have questions about the online application system, also contact us at oie@bellevuecollege.edu or call us at 425-564-3185.

8. What are the age requirements for the IHSC program?

Students must be at least 16 years old to qualify for the IHSC program. Students ages 18 and older who have not yet earned a high school diploma may join the IHSC program as long as they meet the IHSC conditions (see #5) and admission requirements (see #7).

In addition to the IHSC program, Bellevue College can issue a high school diploma if a student is at least twenty-one (21) years of age, successfully completed an associate degree, and submitted a graduation application for the associate degree.

9. Are there English language proficiency requirements?

Students who meet one of the [required English language proficiency](#) will be admitted directly to the college-level program. Students who do not meet the English requirement may start from the Intensive ESL program at BC. Upon successful completion of the intensive ESL program, students may apply for the IHSC program. The IHSC courses start when students are admitted to the college-level program.

10. What if the student does not know anyone to be the Attorney-in-Fact (AIF)?

Students' health and safety is our number one priority. We strongly recommend family use extra care to find an accessible and reliable Attorney-in-Fact (AIF) for their student. If a family does not know anyone in the Bellevue area or in the USA, please contact the [homestay companies](#) and ask for their help to find a host family who is willing to become the AIF. BC employees cannot be appointed as the AIF.

11. How will students complete the high school requirements?

BC's IHSC program is made so that students can take college classes that count for both a high school degree and a transfer associate degree. To earn a Washington State High School diploma from BC, students must satisfy all high school graduation requirements below:

- A High School and Beyond Plan (e.g., develop an education and career plan with a BC advisor)

- Earning high school credits
- Passing the state-approved alternative tests

Class of 2018-2020:

Graduation Assessment Requirement	SAT with Essay (March 2016 or later)	ACT with Writing
Mathematics	430	16
English Language Arts	410	14

Source: [State of Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Graduation Alternatives](#)

12. What courses will the students take?

The Assistant Director of Special Programs (ADSP) will evaluate each IHSC student's high school transcript and identify courses student needs to satisfy the diploma requirements. In most cases, students will need to take English, US history/government, Health, Arts, and more. In addition to taking these courses, all IHSC students must pass either the ACT or SAT exams (see #11). The ADSP will work with the IHSC students to make sure they are on track to meeting both requirements.

13. Where will the IHSC students live?

Students who are 17 may apply for the BC's on-campus student housing. Students who are 16 must live with a relative, family friend, or a host family arranged by a reputable homestay company. BC works with [three homestay companies](#). Homestay companies may require eight to ten weeks to find a host family before the student's arrival. Please apply early.

14. Will the students be allowed to work?

Generally, F-1 students who are in good academic and immigration standing may work up to 20 hours per week at their school that issued their I-20 form. Students under the age of 18 may be required to have their parent's written permission before they can be hired. F-1 students must not work off-campus without first checking with their International Student Advisor even if the job is unpaid. Common on-campus jobs are working in the school cafeteria, Bookstore, Student Programs, Early Learning Center, OIE or other short-term project based work.