



Your New Home

No. 8 Safest Small City in the US - [GoodHire](#)

Temperate Climate

- The average temperature in Bellevue, throughout the year is 12°C, with a high of 25°C and a low of 3°C

Clean Air and Water

- Seattle-Bellevue tap water is safe to drink.
- The area offers lakes, mountains, parks, the Pacific Ocean, and more for outdoor sports and recreation.

Tech-centric Location

- The Seattle-Bellevue area hosts corporate offices for Microsoft, Amazon, T-Mobile, and Starbucks.
- Downtown Seattle is a 15-minute drive away.
- There is an extensive public transportation system including buses, trains, and ferries.





Your Acceptance Email and Information

Important Information Includes:

ctcLink ID Number: 202 000 0000

SEVIS ID Number: N0000000000

Bellevue College SEVIS Code: SEA214F00300000

English Placement: English 93, 97, 98, or 101:

- *Only College-Level students will have this section. If you are a college-level student who does not you will have to take Bellevue Colleges English Placement test which we will discussed in a later slide.*

Step 1. Log into [International Student Portal](#) to access the documents.

1. If you have not created your BC email, use the “Applicant” login.
2. If you have created your BC email, you will need to wait 48 hours before using the “Current Student” login.

Step 2. Print your I-20 and Acceptance Letter. You must sign the I-20 and bring the I-20 to your visa interview and with you to the U.S.





Setting up your student accounts

Step 1: Create your Bellevue College Username and Email

Your ctcLink ID number from your acceptance letter is required for this step.

- [Go to the NetID site](#) and then click on Create Account. Follow the directions to create your account.
- **You can access your email here:** bellevuecollege.edu/email/

Step 2: Activate your ctcLink student account

Your ctcLink ID number from your acceptance letter is required for this step.

- [Click for Instructions](#) and [Click for Activation Page](#)
- **You can access your ctcLink student account here:** bellevuecollege.edu/ctclink/students/



Intensive English (ESL) Preparing for Enrollment

Step 1: Complete the required placement testing

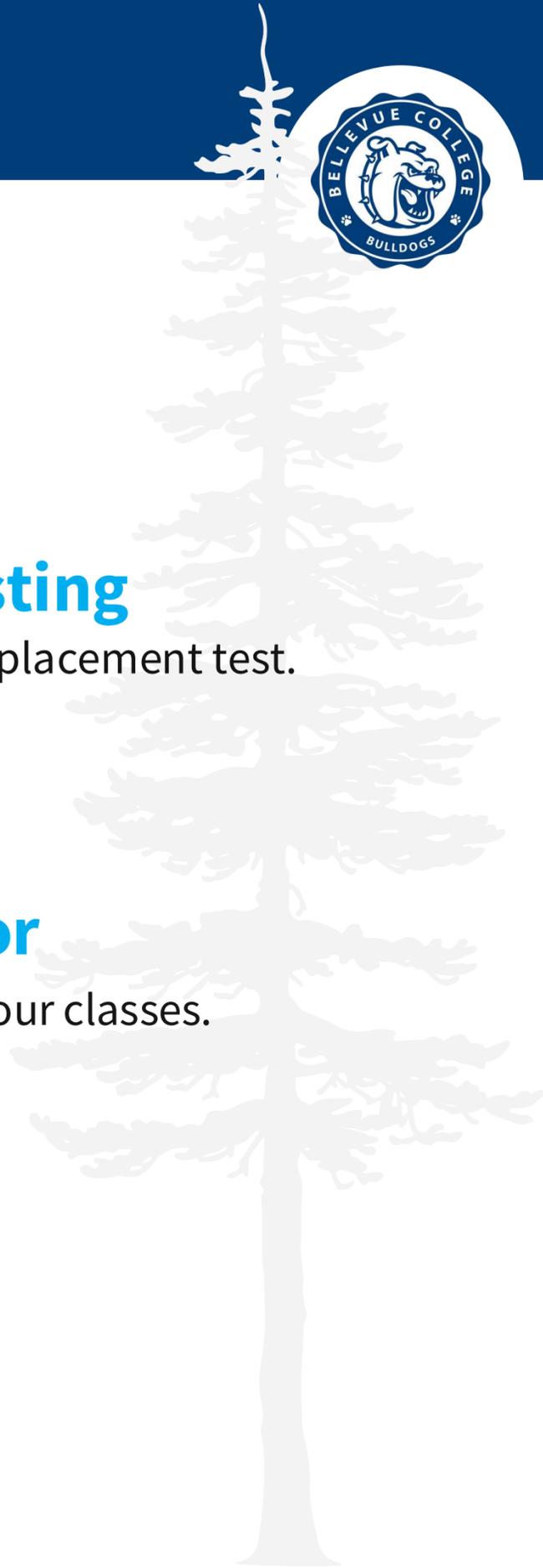
We will send you an email 1-2 months before your classes begin with a placement test.

Step 2: Email us back

Let us know you have completed your placement test.

Step 3: Enrolled by your International Advisor

Our team will evaluate your placement test results then enroll you in your classes.





Bridge Pathway Preparing for Enrollment

Step 1: Meet with your International Advisor

[Make an appointment with your advisor](#) online or in-person

Step 2: Enroll in your classes

Your International Advisor will tell you which classes to enroll in.





College-Level: Certificate, Associate, Bachelor Preparing for Enrollment

Step 1: Meet with your International Advisor

- [Make an appointment with your advisor](#) online or in-person

Step 2: Complete the required placement testing

- [Request Guided Self Placement for English](#): If you submitted a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo score, check your acceptance email to see if you received English placement.
- [Request Math Placement through ALEKS for Math](#): Required

Step 3: Plan your classes

- F-1 students must enroll in 12 or more credits per quarter, with at least 7 credits being from in-person or hybrid classes.
- [Use this guide to select classes for your degree program](#). Students typically take 3 or 4 classes in the first quarter, including HD 103.

Step 4: How to enroll

- [Learn how to search for and enroll in classes here](#). Click [here to see when enrollment opens](#).





SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR ADVISOR



Aidrien: Aidrien.Wilkins@bellevuecollege.edu
Students with Last Names starting with letters A, B, M, N, O, P, Q, and R



Heather: heather.woods@bellevuecollege.edu
Fall Quarter IBP and Students with Last Names starting with letters C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K.



Angela: Aleung@bellevuecollege.edu
Spring Quarter IBP and Students with Last Names starting with letters L, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z



Katie: Kathryn.Pappas@bellevuecollege.edu
All International High School Completion Students



Apps to Download

Outlook

Download the Outlook app to stay connected to your Bellevue College email and ensure you never overlook crucial messages regarding your classes, tuition, grades, and visa status.

Canvas

Download the Canvas app to stay organized with your classes. Utilized by all classes at Bellevue College, this app enables you to communicate with your professors, turn in assignments, review your grades, and perform other assignments.

Microsoft Authenticator

Download the Microsoft Authenticator app, or a similar authenticator app to set up the Multi-Factor Authentication on your account.





Paying Your Tuition – After Enrollment

How to Pay Tuition

- Tuition is usually paid online through your ctcLink account. You can find [tuition due dates here](#).
- Tuition is based on credit hours, allowing flexibility to change classes without affecting the tuition already paid.

Payment Options

- Students can pay their tuition by US credit or debit card, or by Wire Transfer. To receive an invoice with Bellevue College's bank details for wire transfer, please email accepted@bellevuecollege.edu.

Scholarships

- The Bellevue College Foundation Scholarship Application opens in January 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year. Awards typically range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

*International students are not eligible for student financial aid, federal student loans (FAFSA), or payment plans.



THE VISA PROCESS



#1 Receive your acceptance email and I-20 document

These will be sent to your listed email.

#2 Pay your SEVIS I-901 Fee

Pay at fmjfee.com. This will require your passport and your I-20.

#3 Save a copy of receipt of your SEVIS I-901 Fee payment

An electronic receipt is required to sign up for your interview. You should bring a printed copy with you to your visa interview.

#4 Find a US Embassy or Consulate near you

Locate the nearest locations to you: usembassy.gov/

#5 Complete the DS-160 Visa Application

Follow the instructions [here](#) to sign up for a visa interview appointment.

#6 Secure your documents

See U.S. Embassy or Consulate website for list of required documents.

#7 Attend your visa interview

Arrive early and bring all the required documents with you.



Visa Interview: What to Expect

The consular officer at the US embassy or consulate is looking to confirm three main things:

- You're a real student coming to study.
- You have enough money to pay for your education and living expenses.
- You plan to go back home after your studies.

Examples of questions you may be asked during your visa interview include:

- Why are you traveling to the US?
- Why did you choose this college?
- Why do you want to study in the US instead of your home country?
- Why did you pick this course or major?
- Who is paying for your studies, and how do you know them?
- What does the person paying for you do for a living? What's their job and income?
- Do you have any family living in the US?
- What will you do after finishing your studies in the US?
- Have you applied for a visa before?
- Have you traveled to other countries before?



ON CAMPUS HOUSING – NOT REQUIRED



Housing Details

- BCs campus housing accommodates 350+ students
- 5 floors, 8 room layouts
- Modern style and amenities
- Views of Seattle skyline
- Water, electricity, garbage, and WiFi costs all included
- On-site laundry facility
- Common spaces for studying, meeting, & socializing
- Resident Assistants (RA) for support and on-campus events



ON CAMPUS HOUSING – NOT REQUIRED



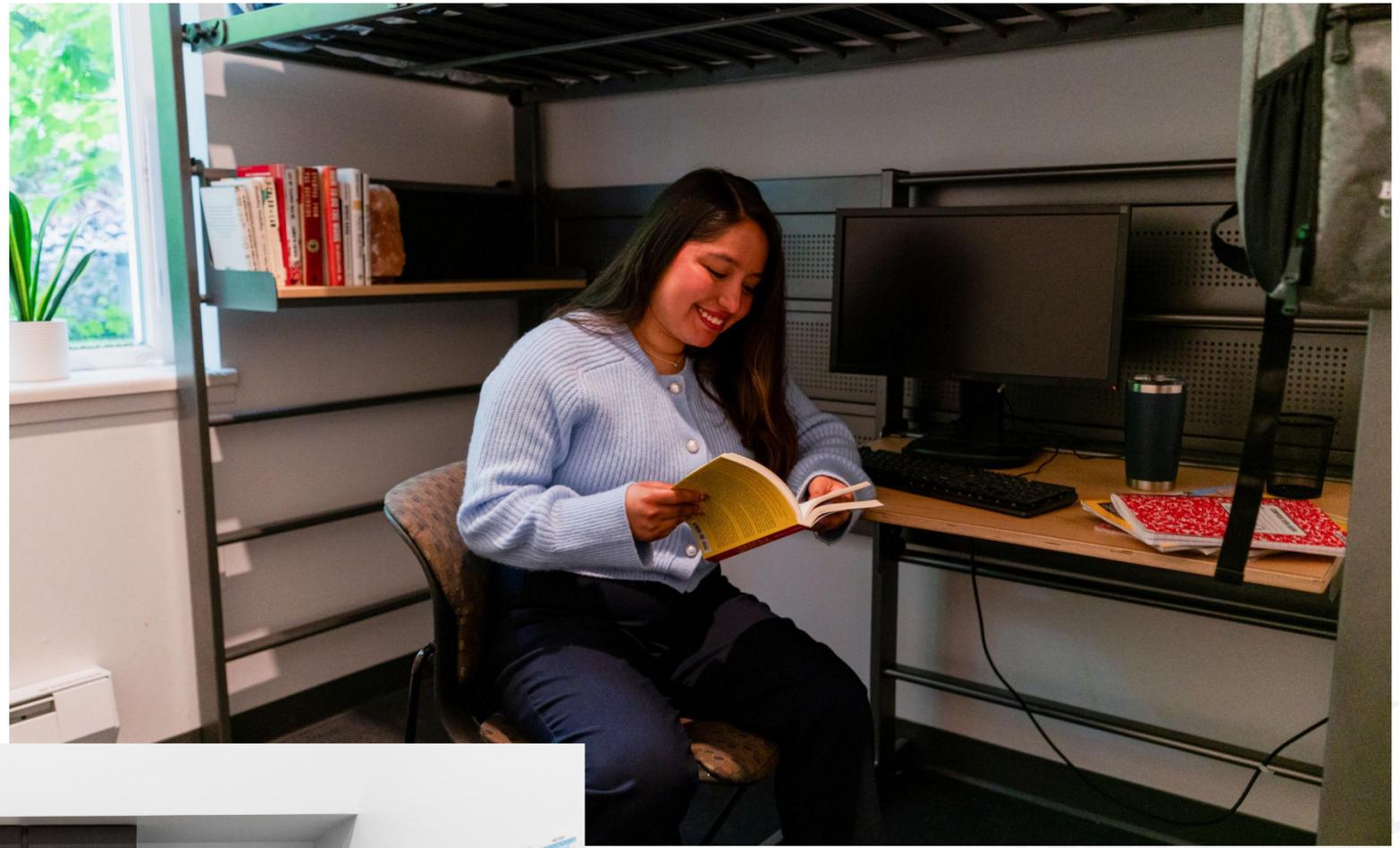
How to Apply

- Must be 17+ years old at time of housing move in
- Must have a valid Bellevue College email address
- To apply, students should log into their [eRezLife](#) profile with their Bellevue College email and password.
- There is an application fee of \$50 USD.

Deadlines

- Apply as soon as possible for best availability.
- See [detailed dates here](#).





OFF CAMPUS HOUSING



HOMESTAY

- Private bedroom in host family's home
- Includes meals & utilities

- Placement Fee: \$300 - \$350
- Monthly Rent: \$900 - \$1,250

- Average one-way commute:
30 minutes - 1 hour

- Homestay companies we work with:
 - seattlehomestays.com
 - ushomestay.com

OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT

- Typically shared with other tenants
- With/without furniture
- Shared utility bills with other tenants

- Monthly Rent: \$700+ (utility excluded)
based on shared Bellevue avg.

- Commute is based on location

- Prices estimated on sharing an
apartment with 2-4 people. You will
need to find roommates on your own.

MANDATORY MEDICAL INSURANCE



Medical Insurance

F-1 visa holders at Bellevue College must enroll in the BC-Foundation medical plan every quarter.

- [Health insurance: How it protects your health and finances.](#)
- This plan doesn't cover dental or vision care and has a 6-month waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

When do you pay?

- Your Bellevue College ctcLink student account is charged quarterly. Insurance must be paid before you enter the US.

More Questions?

- A representative from Firebird LLC will be at orientation to answer your questions. You can also find eligibility and coverage information on their website: [Firebird, LLC.](#)



Arrival

Flights, Navigation, and Airport Transport

ARRIVAL TO

SEATAC AIRPORT

- Book your flight to SeaTac airport (SEA) located in Washington State
- When you arrive in the U.S., you will walk to baggage claim, grab your luggage, and line up to speak with a CBP officer. Make sure to have your passport open to your F-1 visa and your I-20 ready.

NAVIGATE

SEATAC AIRPORT



youtube.com/watch?v=ua2a2F0bZ_U&t=5s&ab_channel=PNW4K

GROUND TRANSPORT

SEATAC AIRPORT

Multiple forms of transportation link you to the Seattle region:

- App Rideshares (Uber & Lyft)
- Door to Door shuttle services
- Public transit includes buses and the Light Rail
- Taxis

Most of these can be located on the 3rd floor of the garage



Airport Pick-Up Service

This Service Provides:

You can reserve private airport transfer from SEATAC (SEA) airport through one of our trusted airport transfer providers. **This service costs a flat rate of \$100 USD and will be paid directly to the airport transfer company**

The driver will greet you with a sign that has your name and will take you directly to the address you provide within the Greater Seattle Area.

Contact Information:

- Email: info@seaviewairportservice.com (Satnam Singh)
- WhatsApp and Phone: +1 206 779 3052

In your message or email, include:

- Your name
- That you are a Bellevue College student
- Flight number of your flight to Seattle
- Arrival date and time
- Your phone number



What to Bring

When you are travelling to Bellevue, WA

CARRY ON

DON'T FORGET THESE

Documents:

- Valid passport
- F-1 visa
- Bellevue College I-20
- A hard copy of your US address

Items:

- Medications
- Glasses/contact lenses
- IE Contact Information
- Personal Phone, Phone Charger, Laptop, etc.
- Cash in USD in smaller bills

CHECKED BAGS

YOU COULD BRING

- Bring a jacket, your favorite clothing, close toed shoes, rain wear, etc.
- Traditional clothing from your home country
- Hard to find spices and recipes from your family

BE AWARE

THINGS TO NOTE

- Visit TSA's [What Can I Bring Page](#)
- No meat, fruits, or vegetables will be allowed entry to the US.
- If you bring cash over \$10,000 USD you must declare it at customs upon arrival in the US
- If you are short on space in your luggage, leave large items at home that you can purchase.
- Bring an outlet travel adapter for wall outlets.

SHOPPING IN THE BELLEVUE AREA



Marketplace at Factoria

- **Grocery:** QFC, Amazon Fresh, Target, Jing Jing, and T&T Supermarket
- **Department Stores:** Target
- **Banks:** Bank of America, UniBank, KeyBank, BECU ATM, and Chase Bank
- **Outlet Stores:** T.J. Maxx, Nordstrom Rack

Crossroads Bellevue

- **Grocery:** QFC
- **Banks:** Bank of America, Chase Bank, US Bank
- **Specialty stores:** World Market, Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, and more.
- Restaurants and cafes in a variety of international cuisines.

Bellevue Square Mall

- Restaurants, clothing stores, luxury stores, coffee shops, specialty items, and more.
- **Some of the stores include:** Macy's, Nordstrom, Apple Store, AT&T and T-Mobile

Other Stores Nearby:

- **Grocery:** Trader Joe's, Costco, Walmart, Safeway, Whole Foods, Fred Meyer
- **Department Stores:** Walmart Neighborhood Market
- **Home:** Ikea



WHAT TO EXPECT AT ORIENTATION



New Student Orientation on December 31 is MANDATORY

This All-Day Event Will Cover:

- F-1 Regulations
- Healthcare and Insurance
- Bellevue College Services
- Tour of Campus
- Complete your International Student Check-In
- Provided Lunch

Please complete these before arriving to the US. If you are unable to, we can assist you during orientation.

- Create your Bellevue College Accounts
- Enroll in Classes
- Pay Tuition

Parents, guardians, and sponsors are welcome to attend orientation. They will participate in an additional short session in the afternoon.





Bank and Phone Accounts

BANKING IN THE US

HOW TO SET UP A BANK ACCOUNT

- To set up a bank account in the US a student must:
 1. Bring copy of passport and visa
 2. Bring I-20
 3. Has US phone number
 4. Has US address
- Students under the age of 18 can set up a bank account (checking account only) at Bank of America (BoA) without a guardian.
- The closest BoA to campus is at 1444 SE Eastgate Way in Bellevue

PHONE

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

- **eSIM** – can be purchase ahead of arrival in the US. Check if your phone is compatible with eSIM
- **Physical SIM cards** - students can purchase a plan at a cell phone provider such as AT&T, T-Mobile, or Mint Mobile.
- If you do not have an active SIM card when you arrive in the US, you should connect to airport WiFi to book ride shares and/or contact friends, family, BC staff on arrival.
- WhatsApp, Skype, and similar apps allow WiFi calling



STUDENT LIFE: A world of adventure and opportunity!



Bellevue College Wellness Center

- Intermural Sport Teams
- Guided Outdoor Excursions including biking, paddling, rock climbing, and hiking
- Outdoor Gear Rental
- On-campus Gym and Fitness Center



Academic & Special Interest Clubs

Some of the clubs you can join include:

- Robotics Club
- Gaming Club
- English Talk Time
- United Nations Association
- AI & Ethics Club
-and many more!



International Student Association

ISA is a great place to meet fun people from around the world.

ISA holds annual events such as the Halloween Dance, Lunar New Year celebration, the annual International Night, and more.



Student Life



ADDITIONAL CAMPUS SERVICES HERE



Daily Support & Inclusion

Our campus has student supports such as:

- Prayer Rooms
- Gender Neutral Bathrooms
- Mothers Rooms
- Accessibility navigation

Counseling & Disability Resource Centers

The Counseling Center provides free and confidential mental health counseling to students.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) offers advocacy and accommodations for students with disabilities.

United Way Benefits Hub

The Benefits Hub offers:

- Free financial tutoring
- Emergency assistance
- Student food pantry



On Campus Jobs and How to Get One

Important Information

F-1 visa holders can work on Bellevue College's campus up to 19 hours each week. You will need a resume and cover letter to apply. [Guides](#) can be found on the Career Connections website.

How to find an on-campus job:

- Visit college departments like the Gym, Library, Student Programs, and Success Center to ask about job openings.
- Check the [Center for Career Connections](#) and [download the Handshake app](#).
- Apply for a Student Life job [on their website](#).

When you receive a job offer:

- Submit an [On-Campus Employment Authorization form](#). Your International Advisor must sign this document.
- Register your Social Security Number.

