

FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF AN F-1 STUDENT

The purpose of this information is to explain some important information for anyone considering sponsoring a student in F-1 status. This is done to minimize potential misunderstandings that could arise. This is also intended to help both students and sponsors avoid unpleasant situations in the future. ***Please note: This document does not directly address the legal responsibilities of sponsoring an F-1 student. Potential sponsors should consult an attorney if they have any legal questions or concerns about sponsoring an F-1 student.***

Sponsor's Financial Obligation

Sponsors of F-1 students are obligated to contribute financial and other support as declared on the *Financial Support Documentation* handout for the full duration of a student's intended program of study, which is expected to last 3 years, and cannot expect a student to perform any work in the person's home or business in exchange for sponsorship. While a sponsor need only show proof of available funds for one year of study, he or she must acknowledge ability and intent to continue funding for the full duration of an F-1 student's program at CCP.

Room and Board provided in the Sponsor's Home

Sponsored F-1 students cannot be expected to perform work, such as taking care of the sponsor's children, in the sponsor's home. F-1 students can be expected to perform routine household chores that any other family member would perform without payment as long as these duties do not adversely affect the students' normal academic activities and progress as a full-time student. (Students in F-1 status at CCP must take a full course load, a minimum of 12 credits per semester.) Likewise, students should be permitted a reasonable amount of free time to spend socially with their friends and to participate in college-related activities. ***If a person is not able or willing to sponsor a student on these terms, then he or she should reconsider entering into any sponsorship agreement.***

Limited Work Opportunities for F-1 students

Opportunities for international students in F-1 status at CCP to work in the US are ***extremely limited***. Therefore, students must have secured funds from a sponsor and/or personal resources to meet their entire financial needs while studying. On-campus jobs may be available to F-1 students, but they cannot be relied on to help support the student for educational or living expenses. ***Any work in the US performed by an F-1 student that is not authorized by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is illegal and may lead to removal (deportation)!***

Automobile Use

If a sponsored-student will be driving a sponsor's car, the sponsor should contact his or her insurance company to find out if his or her policy would cover the sponsored F-1 student in the event of an accident. The sponsor and sponsored F-1 student should agree beforehand who would be responsible for paying any deductible or other related expenses should an accident occur.

Travel outside the US may be Risky after a Change of Status

Students who change their status in the United States and wish to leave the US will need to obtain an F-1 student visa abroad at a US Consulate or Embassy before returning to the US. This means there is a possibility that a student may not be able to return to the US if he or she needs to leave the US for any reason, including brief vacation travel with their sponsor. This can also be especially difficult during times of special family events or emergencies.

*****Additional Note for J-1 Au Pairs Sponsored by their *host family* to Study in F-1 Status**

Upon approval for a change of status from J-1 Au Pair to F-1 Student, the sponsored F-1 student becomes a full-time student. He or she is no longer an employee of the host family and cannot perform any work, such as taking care of the sponsor's children, or receive a paycheck. While the F-1 student may perform routine household chores, like any other family member, he or she cannot be paid for such service and must be permitted sufficient time to study full-time, as required under F-1 regulations. ***If a host family does not feel as though they can sponsor a student on these terms, they should reconsider entering into any sponsorship agreement.***