

Proof of Funding

According to U.S. immigration regulations, you must prove that you have sufficient funding to cover all program costs in order to study in the United States. You may also be asked to show proof of funding at your visa interview or the port of entry, so it is important to keep original copies. Proof of funding can come from multiple sources, as long as supporting documents from each source show a total amount greater than or equal to the minimum required program cost.

Copies of the following supporting documents are accepted as proof of funding:

1. Funds from home country (personal or family)

- **Bank Letter or Bank Statement** to show that the student or student's family at home has sufficient funds
 - In English -OR- include a certified English translation
 - On official bank letterhead -OR- statement must include official bank logo/stamp/address
 - Dated within the last 6 months
 - Full name of account holder (must match name provided on application)
 - Amount of money in account -OR- letter must state that the holder has enough money in the account to cover the minimum required program cost
 - Type of currency (USD preferred)
 - *Please note: We only require bank statement summaries (MELP does NOT need copies of transaction history)*

2. Funds from United States (sponsor)

- **Form I-134, Affidavit of Support** to show that the student is sponsored by someone in the US who has sufficient funds
 - For Form I-134 and instructions: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-134>
 - In English
 - Dated within the last 6 months
 - Make sure the sponsor checks the box next to "intend" and explains the exact nature and duration of the support (Page 4, Part 3, #38 and Page 8, Part 7)
 - *Please note: Supporting evidence on Page 3 of instructions is required for visa interview only (MELP does NOT need copies of supporting evidence)*

3. Funds from a scholarship or grant (government, business, or academic institution)

- **Letter of Support/ Financial Guarantee** to authorize the University of Minnesota to send a bill directly to the sponsoring agency instead of the student
 - In English -OR- include a certified English translation
 - On official letterhead -OR- statement must include official logo/stamp/address
 - Dated within the last 6 months
 - Full name of student
 - Length of time for which the funding is granted
 - What is included (example: tuition, fees, health insurance, dependents) -AND- any limitations
 - The degree/major must specifically state "ESL" at the University of Minnesota
 - Name and address for contact person for University billing
 - *Please note: A Financial Guarantee "For Admission Purposes Only" is accepted as proof of funding; however, an official letter will be required upon arrival*