



2021-2022

GENERAL OVERVIEW BROCHURE

*from International Theological
Seminary*

CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.

Hello there! Thank you for your interest in International Theological Seminary. We are grateful to have prospective students that are inquisitive and eager to learn more about our institution. That is why we've created the ITS General Overview Brochure. We hope our brochure can serve as a quick guide to answer some of your initial questions and/or point you to the appropriate handbook/catalog for more information. Happy reading!

Please submit any additional inquiries to itsla.edu/admission-inquiry/.



GENERAL

Weather

There's a reason California is known as the sunshine state. For most of the year, California experiences a good amount of sunshine and pleasant weather. In West Covina, CA the summer months are hot, arid, and clear while the winters are long, cool, wet, and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 46°F (7°C) to 90°F (32°C) and is rarely below 37°F (3°C) or above 98°F (36°C). If you plan to join us on campus, make sure you pack weather related-clothing!

Transportation

The best method of getting around West Covina would be by car. If you do not have a car, you may take public transportation such as the bus or train or opt to do rideshare services such as Uber or Lyft. You may also ride a bike. If you are coming to California for the first time, we highly encourage you to secure a ride to ITS' campus prior to arriving at the airport. ITS does not offer pick-up and drop-off services to and from the airport.

STUDENT LIFE

**Please refer to the ITS Academic Catalog (AC) and Student Handbook (SH) on our website for more detailed information.*

Events

Students at ITS are encouraged to attend various school-wide events! Such events include: Invocation, Tuesday Chapels, Open House, Colloquium, Graduation Commencement, and holiday get-togethers.

Campus Facilities

ITS shares its property with the West Covina Fellowship and other tenants. ITS currently has administrative and faculty offices, a library, a chapel sanctuary, cafeteria hall, ADA-compliant bathrooms, and designated classrooms for student use.

Student Housing and Facility Usage

ITS currently owns two homes which function as off-campus single student dormitories. The first dorm is located on 1212 California Ave. and serves as the men's dormitory. The second dorm is located on 1128 California Ave. and serves as the women's dormitory. Both dorms are in close proximity to one another and roughly .06 miles (1 km) away from the campus. Both dorms are located right off the 10 Freeway and are surrounded by various grocery stores, outlets, and a shopping center. Please be aware that as of 2021, there is currently no housing accommodation at ITS for married couples and families who come together. If all parties are granted visas, they will need to secure their own housing arrangements.

Student Conduct Within Dorms

Students who reside in our dorms are expected to abide by ITS dorm policies (See Student Handbook for more information). Students are to respect one another's personal and cultural differences and seek to understand one another in Christ. Students are to uphold and exemplify a spirit of humility, love, and grace towards one another.

California

Culture

West Covina is located near Los Angeles, a city known for its very diverse melting-pot of people-groups and cultures. There are many people-groups represented in the metropolitan area of Los Angeles so you can be sure you'll find individuals from your own country here. You'll be able to experience cultures from Southeast Asia to the Middle East and beyond. Some prominent cultures you'll find in Los Angeles include (but are not limited to): Latinos/Hispanic, Korean, Filipino, Chinese, Indian, Taiwanese, Italian, etc. You can be sure that the student body of ITS also reflects this diversity.

GENERAL (CONTINUED)

Food

During the academic school year, the Student Body President works with ITS to draft a list of ingredients and supplies students need to purchase for cooking. Please note that while ITS provides some assistance, we do not cover additional food expenses that occur from eating at restaurants.

Connecting with Churches

ITS students will have the opportunity to connect with and hopefully serve at a local church. Students may either request ITS to introduce them to a partner church or a student can opt to search for a church on his/her own.

MAINTAINING YOUR VISA

In order to maintain legal status as F-1 visa holder, please ensure that you abide by the following guidelines:

- Ensure your passport is valid during the duration of your stay.
- Maintain full-time enrollment as a student.
- Extend your I-20 as needed. In order to do this, please notify our Academic Dean for prior approval. Once approved, please contact our DSO at least 30 days prior to the end date in section 3 of your Form I-20.
- If you plan to apply for a second program, you will need to request a new I-20 at least 60 days before you complete your first program. Contact our Admissions office to apply.
- Carry your passport and your I-94 card with you at all times
- Depart the US in a timely manner

F-1 VISA PREPARATIONS

Document Checklist

If you've been admitted to our institution, congratulations! You're one step closer to studying in-person at ITS. After you pay your I-901 SEVIS fee and complete the visa application, you should compile the proper documentation needed for your visa interview. Such documents include the following:

- A valid passport
- The Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160
- The application fee payment receipt
- A passport photo
- A Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F1) Student Status (Form I-20)

Additional documents may be requested to prove your eligibility for the F-1 student visa, including academic transcripts, diplomas, degrees, or certificates. Test scores such as the TOEFL, SAT, GRE, or GMAT may also be requested, as well as proof of your intent to depart the U.S. after your program is complete and proof of your financial stability.

Bringing Dependents

Only the spouse and unmarried minor children (under age 21) who accompany the primary visa holder to the U.S. may receive F-2 dependent status. Their eligibility to stay legally in the U.S., as well as to extend their stay, is contingent upon the primary visa holder maintaining his/her legal status and extending his/her program in a timely manner. **ITS will grant an F-2 dependent SEVIS I-20 form to dependents upon submission of proof of financial income/support from the primary F-1 visa holder.**

WORK AVAILABILITY

Employment Opportunities

F-1 students may be eligible to work off-campus on a case-by-case basis as a result of special situations such as severe economic hardship or special student relief. One year of full-time study is required before a student is eligible to apply for off-campus employment. **If you are an international student in F-1 status, please remember that any off campus employment for F-1 students must be related to your field of study!** This employment must also be pre-authorized by the Designated School Official (DSO) and USCIS. Without proper work authorization, off campus employment would be considered a violation of your F-1 requirements. The consequences would most likely include loss of legal immigration status in the U.S., possible deportation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and great difficulty in any future attempts to acquire a visa to enter the U.S. According to U.S. immigration regulations, 8 Code of Federal Regulations 214.1(e): "A nonimmigrant who is permitted to engage in employment may engage only in such employment as has been authorized. Any unauthorized employment by a nonimmigrant constitutes a failure to maintain status..."

Internship Opportunities

F-1 students may inquire about paid on-campus internship opportunities once they arrive in California. Additionally, paid internship opportunities may also be available through field-related NGOs, churches, and other organizations under Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Any student may apply for a CPT upon the completion of a year of full-time study.