

Who is eligible for federal student aid?

If you are not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, you must have one of the following immigration statuses in order to qualify for federal student aid payments:

- U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I551, or I-551C Resident Alien Card;
- an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) stamped “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Indefinite Parole,” “Humanitarian Parole,” “Cuban-Haitian Entrant,” or “Conditional Entrant.”

If you have as proof of your immigration status only the following, you do not qualify for federal student aid funds:

- Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence (Form I-171 or I-464);
- Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688);
- Employment Authorization Card (Form I-688A or I-688B);
- Family Unity Status (Form I-797); or
- Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) stamped with F-1, F-2 or M-1 Student Visa, B-1 or B-2 Visitor Visa, J-1 or J-2 Exchange Visitors Visa, or G, H, or L series Visas.

If you have any questions about your immigration status and your eligibility for federal student aid, please speak to a financial aid counselor.

www.bmcc.cuny.edu/finaid/

Office of Financial Aid



INFORMATION GUIDE

IMMIGRATION STATUS AND SECONDARY CONFIRMATION



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Why do I have to submit my immigration documents?

When you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Department of Education (DOE) attempts to complete a match with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to verify your claim of an eligible immigration status.

If the match with DHS records is successful, your Student Aid Report (SAR) will reflect that your claim of an eligible immigration status has been confirmed.

If the match is not successful, the Office of Financial Aid must collect a photocopy of your immigration documents and forward them to DHS so that they may verify the documents and confirm your status.

Federal regulations specify the types of documentation required to verify your immigration status. The Summary Chart of Acceptable Documentation on the next page indicates what kind of documentation you need to submit so that DHS may verify your immigration status. A final decision about your financial aid eligibility will not be made until you have submitted your immigration status documents and they have been confirmed.

Summary Chart of Acceptable Documentation	
Citizen Not Born in the United States	
Certificate of Citizenship	Must have student's name, certificate number, and the date the certificate was issued
Certificate of Naturalization	Must have student's name, certificate number, Alien Registration Number, name of the court (and date) where naturalization occurred
"Certification of Birth Abroad" Form FS-545, DS-1350, or FS-240, "Report of Birth Abroad"	Must have embossed seal "United States of America" and "State Department"
U.S. Passport	Current or expired OK
Non-Citizen National	
U.S. Passport	Must be stamped "Non Citizen National"
Permanent Resident	
"Permanent Resident Card" Form I-551, or the "Alien Registration Receipt Card" Form I-151	OK if not expired at the time of confirmation
Foreign Passport	Must be stamped "Processed for I-551" with expiration date
"Arrival Departure Record" Form I-94	Must be stamped "Processed for I-551" with expiration date, or "Temporary Form I-551", with appropriate information filled in
Other Eligible Non-Citizen	
"Arrival-Departure Record" Form I-94	Must be stamped as a Refugee, Asylum Status, Conditional Entrant (before April 1, 1980), Parolee, Cuban-Haitian Entrant

Is there a deadline for me to submit my immigration documents?

Yes. For you to receive federal financial aid payments for the current award period, the Office of Financial Aid must have received your application record either printed on a paper SAR or in electronic form and have certified that this information is complete and correct by your last day of enrollment. If your immigration documents have to be sent to DHS for status confirmation, they must have been submitted while you are still enrolled. This is necessary so that the DHS response is received in enough time to allow you to be awarded and paid the federal student aid to which you may be entitled. If your application is selected for verification, you have up to 120 days after your last day of enrollment to submit any requested documentation, including the documents supporting your claim of eligible immigration status.

You will not be able to receive any disbursements of federal student aid funds and no direct loan request can be processed until the Financial Aid Office has determined that your application information, including the confirmation of your immigration status, is complete and correct. If you do not meet the above deadlines, you will lose your eligibility to receive federal student aid payments for the current award period.