About Bergen

Bergen Community College is the largest community college in New Jersey and is proud to have over 700 international students representing 66 countries from around the world. Located just 30 minutes from New York City, Bergen is a great place for international students to learn English, earn an Associate’s degree or complete a certificate.

The International Student Center staff at BCC is committed to helping students through the admission process and throughout their time at Bergen. For more information about the International Student Center and to “meet the staff” please see: www.bergen.edu/isc.

We hope you will decide that Bergen Community College is the right place for you!
F-1 students may now apply for full time certificate programs at Bergen Community College

- F-1 students are eligible for certificate programs that are full time (12 or more credits per semester) and are at least one year (2 semesters) in duration.
- F-1 students may apply for the certificate program online, however additional documents must be mailed to the International Student Center.

All applicants must submit:
- An application (online or paper). Students who have already attended BCC must submit a separate application for a certificate program. Please write "returning student" on the application.
- Copies of all F-1 immigration documents (visa, I-94, passport, I-20's).
- A written statement (one paragraph) describing your most recent educational pursuits and how this certificate program will benefit you as an F-1 student.
- Financial agreement of support and bank statement showing at least $18,000 USD.
- A transcript showing any education completed in the USA or proof of high school completion abroad.

F-1 students will need to prove English proficiency (via testing or through transfer credits). If a student places into the American Language Program, s/he will be advised to complete the ALP program and then begin the certificate program. An I-20 extension will be given for this purpose if needed. See www.bergen.edu/testing for details on the LOEP test and waiver.

Students may apply for post completion OPT (work authorization) upon completion of the certificate; approval of the work authorization is at the discretion of the Department of Homeland Security.

F-1 Students pay the Visa Tuition Rate and the one-time F-1 fee (if applicable). See www.bergen.edu/bursar for more information. A payment plan is available. Students may have funds wired directly to the College.