

Avoid Immigration Fraud

If you need legal services beyond the free assistance provided by CUNY Citizenship Now!, you can find an experienced immigration attorney by calling the New York City Bar Association Legal Referral Panel at (212) 626-7373.

If you cannot afford to pay a private attorney, you can get help from an agency recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to provide free or low-cost immigration legal services. For a list of these immigration legal services providers, call “311” to request an authorized immigration legal services provider in your area. You can call “311” seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Assistance is available in over 170 languages.


By law, the only people who may give you legal advice or represent you before USCIS are attorneys or non-attorney representatives who are BIA accredited. Some individuals provide immigration legal advice in violation of the law and some charge you for these services. Legal advice may include advising you on how to answer certain questions on your immigration forms or telling you what immigration options you may have regarding your immigration status. These individuals often refer to themselves as immigration consultants or “notarios.” They may file false or inaccurate applications with the USCIS on your behalf which may have severe consequences – you may end up in removal (deportation) proceedings.

To learn more about how to avoid being a victim of immigration services providers who practice law illegally, visit our website at www.cuny.edu/citizenshipnow. If you or someone you know has been the victim of an immigration scam or has been victimized by an immigration legal services provider, there are several different resources available to assist immigrants.

You can report immigration scams confidentially to the NY County District Attorney’s Office, Immigrant Affairs Program at (212) 335-3600 so they may take action against the unlawful service provider. The NY County District Attorney’s office will also assist immigrants who have been victims of immigration scams or other crimes regardless of immigration status. You may also report immigration scams to the NY State Attorney General’s Consumer Helpline at (800) 771-7755 to try and recover the money you paid for the service advice. Information provided to the District Attorney’s and the Attorney General’s office is confidential and not reported to federal government. You may also report a scam anonymously to USCIS by calling (800) 375-5283 or at www.uscis.gov/avoidscams. The website also offers information on how to avoid scams.

Connect with CUNY Citizenship Now!

 cuny.edu/citizenshipnow

 facebook.com/citizenshipnow

 [@CUNYCitizenship](https://twitter.com/CUNYCitizenship)

CUNY Citizenship Now! Immigration Centers

All Services are FREE



For directions, hours of service and more, call the numbers below, visit www.cuny.edu/citizenshipnow or snap the QR code to the left with your smart phone. Note: all centers require an appointment to see you.

BROOKLYN

Medgar Evers Immigration Center†
(718) 270-6292

MANHATTAN

City College Immigration Center†
(212) 650-6620

CUNY Express Immigration Center†
(212) 568-4692

QUEENS

Flushing Immigration Center†
(718) 640-9223

York College Immigration Center†
(718) 262-2983

STATEN ISLAND

College of Staten Island, El Centro, and Project Hospitality Help Center*
(718) 273-6737

THE BRONX

Hostos Community College Immigration Center†
(718) 518-4395

† Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Recognized
* Part-time center

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PAY IN-STATE TUITION AT CUNY




**CUNY
CITIZENSHIP NOW!**

FREE Immigration Services for the People of New York
www.cuny.edu/citizenshipnow

IN-STATE TUITION ISSUES

All Students

All CUNY students, including undocumented students, benefit from a 2001 New York State law that expanded who can qualify for in-state tuition. That law allows anyone to pay in-state tuition if **any** of the following apply:

- They were enrolled in the City University of New York (CUNY) for the Fall 2001 semester, and qualified for in-state tuition at that time.
- They attended a New York State high school for two or more years, graduated, and applied to attend a CUNY institution within five years of receiving a New York State diploma.
- They attended an approved New York State program for the General Educational Development (GED) exam preparation, received a GED from New York State, and applied to attend a CUNY institution within five years of receiving the New York State GED. GED holders who graduated from High School either in the United States or overseas are not eligible for this benefit.

Individuals qualifying based on the 2001 state law are eligible for in-state tuition even if they have not resided in New York State for one year. Note: To get in-state tuition, undocumented immigrants must file an affidavit (a sworn, written statement signed by the applicant) stating that they will apply to legalize their status as soon as they are eligible. At CUNY, the admissions office can provide you with samples of the affidavits.

Others Eligible for In-State Tuition

If you do not qualify under the rules described above, you still may qualify for in-state tuition if you have resided in New York State for at least one year, **and** one of the following applies:

- You are a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or have a permanent resident application pending (you must have filed Form I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. It is not sufficient to have solely a pending or approved I-130 Petition for Alien Relative or I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker).
- You have asylum, withholding of removal, or refugee status.
- You have temporary protected status (TPS).
- USCIS granted you deferred action status.

- You are a “late amnesty” applicant, a NACARA applicant, or a Cuban or humanitarian parolee.
- You are in one of the following nonimmigrant statuses: A, E, G, H-1B, H-1C, H-4 (where the primary status holder is here in H-1B or H-1C status), I, K, L, N, O, R, S, T, U, or V.

For more information on tuition or admission issues at CUNY, go to www.cuny.edu or call (800) CUNY-YES or (212) 286-9937.

F-1 Students

Students in lawful F-1 nonimmigrant status **do not** qualify for New York in-state tuition even if they meet the high school graduation or GED requirement. If they maintain lawful F-1 student status, they will qualify for in-state tuition only if they apply to become a permanent resident by filing Form I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status or change to another qualifying status, **and** meet the high school graduation, GED, or residency requirements as listed in the “All Students” and “Others Eligible for In-State Tuition” sections.

High school students on an F-1 visa who fall out of status, as defined below, **and** meet the high school graduation or GED requirements as listed in the “All Students” section, qualify for in-state tuition. **F-1 students with college I-20s can never qualify for in-state tuition by falling out of status.**

High School Students Falling Out of Status

Students who register for high school in F-1 status have a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status, better known as an I-20 form, issued by their high school. The I-20 indicates an anticipated end-of-studies date. A student with a high school I-20 will be considered out of status when that student’s end-of-studies date passes, plus 60 days, unless the student registered for college and received a college I-20 within those 60 days.

WARNING TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REGARDING FALLING OUT OF F-1 STATUS

If you are considering falling out of F-1 status just so you can qualify for in-state tuition, **beware!** Out-of-status students are not eligible for employment authorization. Falling out of status makes you deportable and may make it difficult for you to obtain permanent residence.

Financial Assistance for Undocumented Students

Undocumented students are generally ineligible for state or federal financial aid. However, they may qualify for certain private scholarships, depending on the requirements. Please speak with an admissions counselor for information on scholarships, financial assistance, and how to apply to CUNY. Applications for all CUNY colleges and programs are available online at www.cuny.edu, and from the Office of Admission Services by calling 1-800-CUNY-YES.

Undocumented students and international students are eligible to apply to the Macaulay Honors College, which offers a full tuition scholarship, a laptop, and a stipend. The Honors College is available only to the most outstanding students. For additional information about the Macaulay Honors College please contact:

Macaulay Honors College
35 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023
Phone: (212) 729-2900
Fax: (212) 580-8130
Email: info@mhc.cuny.edu
Web: www.macaulay.cuny.edu

