

## Graduate Cost of Living Information for I-20 Requests

**Instructions:** When completing the I-20 for students enrolled in a graduate level academic program, the department or program administrator must provide a reasonable estimate for living expenses such as rent, utilities, and food costs. The Office of Financial Aid has provided the following “Student Living Expense” to assist with the completion of the I-20 Request. The amount for each category is based on documented research and survey results and are in alignment with the Federal Cost of Attendance used for all students enrolled in a graduate level program.

### Step One: Determine the occupancy rate.

The “occupancy rate” is determined at the school level (typically by the Dean’s Office) and is used for ALL I-20 requests within that school (regardless of academic program)

- **Self-Occupant** = Most international students live on their own, without a roommate. They have sole responsibility for living expenses such as rent, utilities, food. OR
- **Shared Occupant** = Most international students live with a roommate or spouse. Living expenses such as rent and utilities are split between occupants.

**Schools do not have the option to use a different rate for different academic programs. Once a rate is selected by the School, it is used for ALL students and ALL academic programs within that school.** If you are unsure which rate your school uses, please contact your Dean’s Office or the Office of International Student & Scholar Services.

### Step Two: Determine the Budget Duration

The “budget duration” is determined at the student level and is reflective of the amount of time or number of terms covered by the I-20.

- **Fall/Spring terms:** 9-month duration
- **Fall/Spring/Summer terms:** 12-month duration

### Step Three: Complete the I-20 Request using the Occupancy Rate required by your school.

Living Expenses = Housing / Utilities / Food

Other Expenses = Books / Transportation / Insurance / Misc.

- **Self- Occupancy:** Most students admitted into a specific program live on their own, without a roommate. They have sole responsibility for living expenses such as rent, utilities, food.

	<u>9 Month</u>	<u>12 Month</u>
Living Expenses:	\$18,389	\$24,516
Other Expenses:	<u>\$8,848</u>	<u>\$11,789</u>
	\$27,237	\$36,308

- **Shared – Occupancy:** Student lives with a roommate or spouse. Living expenses such as rent and utilities are split between occupants.

	<u>9 Month</u>	<u>12 Month</u>
Living Expenses:	\$13,339	\$17,784
Other Expenses:	<u>\$8,848</u>	<u>\$11,789</u>
	\$22,187	\$29,573