

Sponsor's Guide 2017-2018 for SBTS & Boyce College Students

Thank you for your desire to express financial support for an international student at our seminary! Students must provide us evidence of their financial support for all living and study costs for the full length of their studies. Their support can come from any combination of their own savings, if any, and pledged annual support from one or more sponsors. Holding F-1 student visas, these students are subject to some work restrictions, but can typically find part-time jobs on campus and earn between \$5,000 and \$11,000 annually. However, at their visa interview, they cannot claim any possible future work income toward their support, because no jobs are guaranteed. The student must provide evidence of support for their family size:

<u>Family Size:</u>	<u>Must Evidence:</u>
Student	\$20,000 per year
Student & spouse	\$29,000 per year
Student, spouse + 1 child	\$32,000 per year
Student, spouse + 2 children	\$35,000 per year
Student, spouse + 3 children	\$38,000 per year
Student, spouse + 4 children	\$41,000 per year

Our seminary provides you with a simple annual pledge form called **“Statement of Financial Support for International Students”** to best express yearly support. It conforms to the US government’s requirements, and it includes some instructions. It functions as a guarantee; please note in section 6, where the words, “ I intend to make contributions . . . “ means essentially, “If the student needs the funds, I am willing and able during the year to provide up to the specific US dollar amount that I have indicated.” If any entity such as an organization, or church, wishes to express support, a person representing the entity must name him/herself in the form’s section 2 and sign in section 7. An example: *“I, Juan Santos, as pastor and agent of ABC Church, Lima, Peru. . . .”* The agent then must attach some evidence of his own finances as well as the church’s. It is not necessary that all finances be expressed, but just enough to suggest that the person and entity together have sufficient ability or strength to honor the pledge.

Your support will be a matter between you and the student. Our school does not act as a mediator, but for your information, the seminary sets up each student’s account into which funds may be deposited. Any deposit check for a student should be made to simply to “SBTS” with a notation in the check’s (lower left) memo section: “For student: [his or her name].” The deposit will be transferred to the student’s account for his or her immediate use.

Please email mwithers@sbts.edu , Mike Withers, or phone (502) 897-4208, (in the U.S., toll free (800) 626-5525 ext. 4208) with questions or concerns. Original documents should be delivered to: **The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Attn: International Student Services, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.** You may also scan & email your evidence, or internationally fax it to: 011 1 502 897 4031. May our Lord bless you for your concern!