

Florida-Canada Linkage Institute

Mission

The Florida-Canada Linkage Institute (FCLI) is one of 11 institutes initiated in 1987 by the Florida Legislature. The Linkage Institutes were initiated "to assist in the development of stronger economic, cultural, educational, and social ties between Florida and Canada through the promotion of expanded public and private dialogue on cooperative research and technical assistance activities, increased bilateral commerce, student and faculty exchange, cultural exchange, and the enhancement of language training skills between the postsecondary institutions in this state and those of selected foreign countries".

Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Program

Florida Statute 288.8175 enables the FCLI to award out-of-state tuition to citizens of Canada. The purpose of the tuition fee exemption program is to provide international students attending any institution of the State University System of Florida (<http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/ati/international.php>) or community college (<http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/colleges.asp>) the opportunity to pay in-state tuition rates. To qualify, the student must be a citizen of Canada. The selection process is highly competitive and awards are limited. Candidates are evaluated based on their academic record, area of specialization, and their aspirations for the future. The tuition exemption that is offered covers the out-of-state portion of tuition costs. Students are responsible for the in-state tuition costs.

Eligibility

All new and renewal applicants of the Florida-Canada Linkage Institute (FCLI) awards must comply with the following requirements:

- Be a citizen of Canada and maintain F-1 nonimmigrant student visa status while in the U.S.
- Be accepted into any institution of the State University System of Florida or community college and maintain full-time enrollment - 12 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours per semester.
- Must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher when submitting the application and maintain the institutional GPA thereafter.
- Return to Canada within 3 years after completing the degree for a period of time equal to the period of the exemption award.
- Take classes only when living in Florida. Distance learning is not supported by FCLI.
- Send FCLI a fee invoice or schedule prior to the first day of classes for the semester and provide documentation of GPA within ten days after the end of each semester.
- Report any changes in enrollment or academic status to the Florida-Canada Linkage Institute (e.g., recipient's enrollment is lower than the credit hours listed in the award letter).

IMPORTANT: New applicants to the Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Program must submit the required documents by the stated deadline. The application period for the FCLI tuition waiver award will be closed to new applicants on March 31st.

The continuation of funding is not automatic. All recipients must submit a renewal application and other supporting documents by March 1 of every year he/she is eligible.

Required Documents

New Applicants

New applicants to the Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Program must **personally complete and submit** the following materials by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on **March 31, 2015**:

- Completed Florida-Canada Linkage Institute Tuition Exemption online Application Form.
- A one-page essay summarizing the applicant's educational and professional goals and explaining how his/her specific area of interest contributes to the linkage between Florida and Canada.
- Passport (photo page) the passport copy must be legible and show the applicant's name and country of citizenship.
- Letter of Recommendation it is preferable the letter of recommendation is written by an academic reference who is familiar with the applicant's academic work.
- Official Transcripts (must be sent via regular mail). Applicants must include the most recent official transcripts showing the cumulative GPA. However, if the applicant earned less than 60 credit hours, he/she needs to also submit secondary school transcripts. The transcripts must be evaluated (transcripts which do not indicate GPA will not be accepted):

Recommended Credential Evaluation Companies:

- ****World Education Services** <http://www.wes.org>
 - ****Josef Silny & Associates** <http://www.jsilny.com>
- University/college Letter of Acceptance*
 - Copy of I-20 form issued by university/college*

***IMPORTANT:** Complete applications must be received by the posted deadline. However, the applicant's I-20 form and Acceptance letter may be pending at the time of application deadline.

NOTE: Applications will be considered incomplete and tuition waiver awards will not be released until all required documents are submitted. **NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THIS RULE.**

NOTE: An official transcript is a university-officiated document, sealed in an envelope, reflecting the grades you have received since the start of your school career. The transcript becomes "unofficial" if it is opened or tampered with prior to being received by the Florida-Canada Linkage Institute. Applications submitted by persons other than the applicant will be dismissed.

Official transcripts should be mailed to the following address:

Florida-Canada Linkage Institute (FCLI)
University of Central Florida
Barbara Ying Center
12815 Scholarship Drive
Orlando, Florida 32816-0130 USA