



Banking- Opening accounts for student under age 18.

1. Please go with your student to the most convenient bank to assist them in opening an account. ***Do not make yourself a co-signer on their account.***
2. If desired, you may call the bank to arrange for an appointment with the representative able to set up a student account for an international minor. It will take 30-60 minutes, but may take longer if you drop in without an appointment.
3. If a translator is needed please let the bank advisor know. They can access a phone translator service to assist with the process.
4. For a minor to open a bank account please bring the following documents:
 - a. Passport
 - b. Credit card in their name (if they have one)
 - c. I-20 (used to enter the U.S.)
 - d. Current Spokane address for the student (homestay address)
 - e. One of the following:
 - i. Copy of their Admission Letter with student ID number
 - ii. SCC/SFCC Student ID with photo
 - iii. Copy of their class registration
 - f. Address in home country
5. Cash to open an account – usually \$ 25.00- \$100.00 USD
6. Most banks will let minors (under 18) open a *savings* account with debit card access. This debit/ATM card may have a limited number of free monthly withdrawals, but should accept wire transfers and will likely have online access to manage it. Usually the account is free; there is no monthly service fee unless they exceed the withdrawal threshold. Minors are not allowed to open a traditional checking/debit account until they turn 17 or 18. Wells Fargo (and possibly other banks) will allow a 17 year olds to have a checking account with a debit card.
7. If the student will need to receive wire transfers from their parents to their account, ask the bank for the International Swift code for funds to be deposited directly into the student account. The student will need to send this to their parents.
8. Please ask the bank, and/or teach your student about:
 - a. Usage limits on debit cards; fees for usage; how to protect their information
 - b. How to access the account online
 - c. Overdrafts and fees associated with overdrafts
 - d. Wire transfers and associated fees