



BANKING

Accounts for international students

- ❖ Choose a bank with convenient locations. Homestay families may go along to assist students in opening an account, and are requested to accompany minors to the bank. Ideally, students should make an appointment with a representative at the bank to set up a student account. It will take 30-60 minutes, but may take longer if the student does not have an appointment.
- ❖ If a translator is needed, please let the bank advisor know. They may be able to access a phone translator service to assist with the process.
- ❖ ***Homestay families should NOT co-sign on a student account.***
- ❖ To open a bank account, the following types of documents are needed:
 - Passport
 - Any other ID the student possesses
 - Credit card in student name
 - I-20 and F-1 visa
 - Proof of current Spokane address: apartment contract, utility or phone bill, or Homestay placement document.
 - Proof of student status:
 - Copy of admission letter with student ID number
 - SCC/SFCC Student ID with photo
 - Copy of current class registration
 - Address in home country
 - Cash to open the account – usually \$25.00-100.00 USD
- ❖ Verify the following types of questions with the bank representative:
 - Usage limits on debit cards; fees for ATM usage; how to protect personal information
 - How to access online banking
 - Overdrafts and fees associated with overdrafts
 - Wire transfers and associated fees
- ❖ If the student will need to receive wire transfers from their home country in to their account, ask the bank for all the numbers needed, including the International Swift Code. The student will need to pass this information to the person who is wiring the money from overseas.

The following banks have provided these specific details for their banks:

GESA Credit Union

Branch at 4407 N. Division St: (509) 378-3100

Documents needed:

- F-1 visa
- I-20 and I-94 number/arrival record
- Passport

Student checking account: No fees, no minimum balance, no fee for incoming wire transfers

Call ahead for an appointment

Bank of America

Direct contact: Jeremiah Porter, 353-6070, Jeremiah.Porter@bofa.com, 30 E. Wellesley Ave

Make an online appointment

Documents needed:

- F-1 Visa
- Passport + student ID
- College acceptance letter + proof of local address

Safe Balance Account – available to minors and students up to age 24

Debit card access; online banking; no overdraft fees; no checks; \$15 cashier's checks available for larger amounts; incoming wire transfer \$40

Regular Checking Account – for students over age 24

Monthly fee of \$12 (waived if daily balance remains over \$1500 or there is a schedule direct deposit 2+ times per month of \$250 or more); incoming wire transfer \$40

US Bank

Call for an appointment: 509-327-7405

Documents needed:

- Passport
- ITIN number
- College acceptance letter and address verification document

No accounts available for minors.

Student Account: \$25 minimum; \$5 per month fee; \$35 incoming wire fee; Cashiers check \$10

Wells Fargo

Make an online appointment or call Nikolay, 509-325-1270, at the Monroe St. branch.

Documents needed:

- Passport
- F-1 visa
- A second form of ID (student ID, foreign ID)
- Address verification

Clear Access Checking Account: For students ages 13-24; no monthly fee; \$25 to open account; \$20 incoming wire fee

Banner Bank

No appointment needed, call ahead to closest branch if desired.

Documents needed:

- Passport
- F-1 visa
- Address verification

No accounts for minor students (under age 18).

Connected Checking: \$50 to open account; \$4 fee per month (fee is waived if there is a \$500 minimum balance or the account has an auto deposit set up); \$15 incoming wire fee