**F.A.Q**

**What is the tuition exemption program?**

The Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Program is not a monetary award. Those awarded will be exempt from paying out-of-state tuition rates. The awardee’s institution will process the tuition credit. Please note, the tuition waiver will only "waive" the out-of-state portion of tuition, however the awardee will still be responsible for paying the in-state portion of tuition. In other words, the tuition waiver will allow the awardee to register for classes at the same tuition rate as a Florida resident student.

**Procedures and Eligibility**

**What kind of major is eligible for the Award?**

You can study any subject as long as you are working toward a degree. The institute does not fund English as a Second Language (ESL) or English for Academic Purpose (EAP) classes.

**I have been selected to receive the FCI/FMI award, what do I do next?**

In addition to the instructions on your award letter, you will be required to submit a class schedule each semester when you register for classes. The class schedule must include the recipient's name, the name of the institution, the term, the course names and total number of credit hours.

**What should I do if I am taking less credit hours than the Florida-Caribbean or Florida-Mexico Linkage Institute awarded me?**

Please contact the FCI/FMI Program Coordinator via email (vcaviede@fiu.edu) or by phone (305-348-2894) to inform of any changes. In that case, credit hours can be redistributed to other students who need them.

**How often is the award issued?**

FCI awards are offered on a YEARLY basis. The application deadline of June 1 is for the following academic YEAR (both fall and spring). Any remaining credits after fall and spring may be used for the summer. NOTE: If you are not beginning school until the next spring, you must still apply by the stated deadline.

FMI awards are offered on a rolling basis so long as there are credits available.

**Can my parent/advisor/coach inquire about my application or FCI/FMI documents?**

NO. FCI/FMI must comply with FERPA regulations. Your privacy is our utmost concern. Any requests or questions made by someone other than you will NOT be answered. To learn more about FERPA, please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/students.html>

**I want to take online classes, will that be eligible?**

No. FCI/FMI awards are only offered to you while you are physically here in the state of Florida. If your class schedule is only comprised of online courses, there is no way for FCI/FMI to verify your presence in the state of Florida. However, if you are registered for lecture courses on campus, AND you are required to take a course that is only offered online, an exception may be made, but you may be asked to provide a letter from an advisor to confirm the need for the online course.

**Can I be registered for part-time?**

No, you must be a full-time student while receiving the FCI/FMI award. 24 credit hours/year is considered full-time for undergraduates and 18 credit hours/year is considered full-time for graduate students. You may only be a part-time student during your last semester, but you must submit a letter from an advisor confirming your intent to graduate and that your part-time status has been approved by your institution.

**Award Maintenance**

**What documents do I need to submit before the semester begins?**

All FCI/FMI recipients are required to submit a copy of their class schedule, prior to the first day of classes, and resubmit it if any changes occur after drop/add period. Note: the class schedule must include the recipient's name, the institution name, course names and total credit hours.

**Can I submit "unofficial" transcripts for renewal purposes?**

Only current FIU students may submit unofficial transcripts. All other students, including incoming FIU freshmen, must submit official transcripts.

**What is an official transcript? How do I order one?**

An official transcript is a university-officiated document, sealed in an envelope, reflecting the grades you have received since the start of your college career. The transcript becomes "unofficial" if it is opened or tampered with prior to being received by the FCI/FMI Linkage Institute. Transcripts can be requested from your current university's Office of the Registrar, either in person or on their website.

**Additional Credit hours**

**May I request additional credit hours?**

Yes. Additional credit hours are granted on a case-by-case basis. Distribution of additional credit hours is dependent upon the availability of award hours. Most times there are no additional credits available for FCI waivers; however, additional FMI credits have been awarded.

**Application Deadlines and Requirements**

**I am a new applicant but I have already attended university/college in the United States, do I still need to submit my high school transcripts?**

No, you will only need to provide your latest official transcripts from the university/college. Please note: GPA must be calculated.

**Do my transcripts need to be evaluated?**

If you have attended a university/college outside the United States (which does not follow the U.S. educational system), you will be required to submit evaluated transcripts. Please note: GPA must be calculated based on a 4.0 scale.

**How competitive is this program?**

The FCI/FMI tuition exemption program is very competitive. Unfortunately, there are times when applicants are NOT chosen for an award. There are a limited number of awards available and FCI/FMI must rank all new applicants and choose those that are proven to be most exceptional.

**What does the review committee consider when ranking a new application?**

The largest portion of a new application review is derived from the GPA. The minimum GPA accepted is 3.0. However, a higher GPA will increase your chances of receiving an award. Your essay and your letter of recommendation will also be considered.