



A Personal Note from the School Director:

Accepted students are required to prepare certain documentation in order to process the appropriate missionary visa from the Philippine Bureau of Immigration.

A LETTER OF COMMISSIONING will be required specifically stating that your home church is willing to *commission* you to serve in the Philippines as a missionary.

We want to clarify why this letter is crucial;

1. The Philippine Government recognizes the role of an organized local church and its involvement in sending missionaries to their country.
2. The Letter of Commissioning is the primary criteria used by the Philippine Government to validate that you qualify for a missionary visa.

In other words, the Philippine Government willingly accepts the word of your home church that you qualify as a 'sent-out-one' from their organized body. This letter plays a very important role to substantiate your visa application, which is further validated (upon inspection) by the Philippine Commission of Evangelical Churches (PCEC).

Interested applicants are, therefore, encouraged to discuss the importance of this letter with your church leaders BEFORE you apply to the school.

Many of our students come from informal home-based churches. If you attend a home church, we just need a letter written on an improvised church letterhead with a signatory from someone who is in a position of recognized leadership. Philippine Immigration will accept such a letter, which we've submitted many times for our home church-based students.

We trust that your church leaders are willing to get behind your vision to be a midwife. We also hope that your leaders will recognize the role that a trained Christian midwife offers to the World Christian Movement as it relates to foreign missions, which we highlight throughout our website.

Important Notations:

1. If your church leaders are reluctant to issue a Letter of Commissioning, we suggest they might consider issuing it with the mutual understanding that it is being offered provisionally; meaning there are limits involving the extent of the *commissioning*. In other words, they are not necessarily authorizing you to serve as an ordained minister or plant a cross-cultural church or marry and bury people. Rather, it's merely to serve in the capacity of community service to impoverished families via maternal healthcare.
2. Students accepted for enrollment DO NOT need to apply for a visa prior to arriving. Detailed instructions regarding the visa process will be provided once an applicant is officially accepted for enrollment.
3. Finally, exact wording of the Letter of Commissioning will be provided to each enrolled student, which they can provide to their home church to paste onto the church letterhead and signed by the pastor or mission chairman.