



INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Application Deadline Dates

Admissions applications and all official documents must be received in the Undergraduate Admissions Office by the following dates:

Summer session (June 30) or **Fall** semester admission (August 23) - **February 1**

Spring semester admission (January 11) - **October 1**

Complete applications received after the recommended filing date will be considered on a space-available basis.

Applicant Name and E-mail

Because materials for applicants are filed alphabetically under the family name as indicated on the application, it is important that all forms, records, and correspondence consistently use the same name (family and given) and spelling. Where possible, the name on the application should agree with the name on the passport.

We ask that a student provide an e-mail address that can be used. Be sure that we have a current e-mail address at all times and that Penn State is indicated as an eligible sender to that address. We will be communicating with you primarily through e-mail.

English Language Proficiency

In addition to academic admissibility, Penn State requires that all applicants whose native language is not English provide proof of English language proficiency. The following are ways in which you can satisfy the language proficiency:

- A minimum TOEFL score of 80 on the Internet-based TOEFL, 213 on the computer-based exam, or 550 on the paper exam (score reports must be official and cannot be more than two years old),
- A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 on the academic test,
- SAT score of 530 or higher on the critical reading or writing section,
- IGCSE score of A, B, or C on the English language exam, or
- IB score of 5 or higher on the English language exam.

Applicants who have been in a U.S. college or university and have completed two years of full-time academic course work and have a grade of C (2.0) or higher in a standard English composition course will also meet the language proficiency requirement.

Academic Records

Penn State requires official or certified copies of academic records throughout your attendance at secondary school, college, university, and professional institutions of learning. Records should list the subjects studied each year and the mark or grade of proficiency earned in each. A key to the marking system also should be included. Certified copies of diplomas or certificates and reports of scores in school-leaving examinations also must be submitted.

All documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified, line-by-line, literal English translation, in addition to the original language document.

All documents submitted for review must be official, that is, they must be either originals or copies certified by authorized persons. A “certified” photocopy or other copy is one that bears an original signature of the registrar or other designated

school official, an original impression of the institution's seal, or a signature/seal of the examining board. Uncertified photocopies are not acceptable. Copies stamped by a notary are not acceptable.

If you have been or are currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution, include descriptions of all classes you have taken and intend to take up to the semester in which you hope to enroll at Penn State. If descriptions are not available, please provide a three to five sentence description of each course. Include the content, scope, and credits/number of hours for each course or the number of hours per week, and the number of weeks per year/semester.

Credit Acquisition

Course work completed at a regionally accredited college or university in the U.S. will be evaluated for transfer credit if passed with a grade equivalent to A, B, or C (2.0) and is useful in the student's program of study at Penn State. Credits may also be earned from institutions outside the United States if the institution is a recognized part of the system of higher education of another country and offers programs of study equivalent to baccalaureate degree programs at Penn State.

Courses studied at a higher level in some systems of secondary education can be reviewed for transfer credit equivalent to the introductory sequence in that subject – 6 to 8 credits – as follows: Advanced levels (grade A, B, C, or D); Abitur (grades 1, 2, 3, where 1 is high; 7-15, where 15 is high); French Baccalaureate (subjects graded 10 or higher in which the coefficient is 4 or more); International Baccalaureate (subjects examined at the Higher Level with grades 5, 6, or 7); College Board's Advanced Placement examination – AP (awards vary); and College Board's College Level examinations – CLEP (awards vary).

Courses will be evaluated as either equivalent to an exact Penn State course or as general credits within the area of study. Transferable credits may be used to fulfill degree requirements as well as general education requirements and are applied to a student's program of study at the discretion of the academic college of enrollment.

Housing

On-campus housing is guaranteed for first-year students enrolling at Penn State University Park. Advanced standing students and all other students enrolling at campuses other than University Park will be considered for on-campus housing on a space-available basis.

Mandatory Medical Insurance

Sickness and accident medical/hospital insurance that meets guidelines established by Penn State is mandatory for all incoming international students and accompanying dependents (spouse and/or dependents) during their entire program of study at Penn State. Students who do not abide by this requirement will not be allowed to continue registration. This requirement can be met in one of two ways: through the purchase of the Penn State sickness and accident insurance policy; or through an insurance waiver issued by the Student Insurance Office upon presentation of proof of adequate medical insurance that meets all insurance waiver standards. Specific information is available through the Student Insurance Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 208 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802 USA. Information on the waiver standards is available at www.sa.psu.edu/uhs/internationalstudents/mandatoryinsurance.cfm.

Financial Information

Because Penn State cannot offer financial assistance to undergraduate students from other countries, an international applicant must certify that sufficient resources are available to cover expenses for the first calendar year at Penn State, exclusive of travel expenses. You must also indicate how you will meet your expenses for subsequent years. The costs shown on the next page are estimated costs for the 2007-2008 academic year. Actual tuition and fees for the year are available on the Bursar's Web site at www.bursar.psu.edu. Costs typically increase each year. Room and meal costs are also available on this Web site.

Tuition and some fees will vary depending on the campus and major to which you have been admitted. The actual financial guarantee requirement and estimated costs of attendance are available from International Student Services (ISS) on the Web at www.international.psu.edu/international_students/financial_guarantee_req.htm. Or, you can contact ISS at (814) 865-6348 or via e-mail at international@ip.psu.edu.

Estimated Tuition and Related Costs (2009-2010) for First-Year International Students*

Tuition

Campus

| | |
|---|----------|
| Penn State University Park | \$26,020 |
| Penn State Altoona, Berks, Erie, Harrisburg | \$19,238 |
| Penn State Greater Allegheny | \$18,420 |

Books/Supplies

\$1,900

Room and Meals

\$8,300

Other Living Expenses

\$6,800

Mandatory Medical Insurance

\$1,100

*Costs for transfer students, third-year and beyond, may be higher.

If you will be accompanied by dependents (spouse and/or children), you will be fully responsible for their support, and additional funds are required. Please contact ISS for specific costs.

First-year students at Penn State University Park are required to live on campus in the residence halls. Because expenses for students beyond their first year of study may be higher and the immigration document typically covers four years, the financial guarantee is adjusted to reflect these higher costs. In 2007, financial guarantee requirement for undergraduates were \$40,500 at Penn State University Park; \$34,000 for Penn State Altoona, Penn State Berks, Penn State Erie, Penn State Harrisburg; and \$33,300 for Penn State Greater Allegheny.

You may provide the financial guarantee by submitting an official bank letter stating the current balance as well as a letter from the account holder(s) stating the amount they are willing to use towards your educational costs. All financial documents must be dated within the last six months. If you are sponsored by a private institution or government agency, provide a letter from an appropriate official of that agency, including information about duration of the financial support and amounts to be given for specific categories, e.g., tuition, books, medical insurance, and living expenses.

The address for the International Students Services is 410 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802 USA.

We suggest that you keep copies of all financial documents sent to Penn State because you will need this information when you apply for your U.S. visa.

Issuing of Visa Documents

If you are or will be in the United States on a student visa, please include the completed Application for Visa Document with your application for admission. If you are in the United States, also include a photocopy of your passport, visa, I-94, and I-20 (F-1 student) or DS-2019 (J-1 student). If you are currently in the United States on a non-immigrant visa other than a F-1, J-1, B-1, or B-2, you may be able to remain on that visa during your studies at Penn State. If you wish to do so, please supply photocopies of your passport, visa, and I-94 so that ISS can advise you appropriately.

Once a favorable financial review has been conducted, International Student Services will issue the appropriate form either form I-20 or form DS-2019. On your Application for Visa Document, be sure to indicate the address to which you want the visa document sent. This document along with the letter of admission, financial support documents, and a valid passport should be presented to the nearest U.S. Consulate in order to obtain a visa for entry to the United States.

APOO26

U.Ed. EMA 08-07 7-1M

This information is available in alternative media upon request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.