Application Deadline Dates

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

For Summer session (starts June 29) or fall semester admission (starts August 22): **February 1** deadline
For Spring semester admission (starts January 9): **October 1** deadline

Complete applications received after the recommended deadline 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 a working e-mail address. 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 communicate 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 requirement:

- A minimum TOEFL score of 80 on the Internet-based TOEFL, or 550 on the paper exam;
- A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 on the academic test;
- An SAT score of 530 or higher on the critical reading section;
- An IGCSE score of A, B, or C on the English language exam; or
- An IB score of 5 or higher on the English A1 or A2 exam.

Applicants who have been in a U.S. college or university, 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.

*If you are planning to satisfy this requirement with IB, IGCSE, or college or university course work, please send an e-mail to admissions@psu.edu to let us how you will satisfy the 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 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 postsecondary 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 write 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/term.
Credit Acquisition

Course work completed at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States will be evaluated for transfer credit if passed with a grade equivalent to A (4.0), B (3.0), or C (2.0) and if it 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 another country's system of higher education and offers programs of study equivalent to baccalaureate degree programs at Penn State.

Credit can be awarded for secondary school courses as follows: Advanced levels (grade A, B, or C); 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 (AP) examination (awards vary); and College Board’s College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations (awards vary).

Each course will be evaluated as either equivalent to an exact Penn State course or as general credits within an 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

First-year students are required to live on campus at University Park, where housing is guaranteed for them. Advanced-standing students at University Park and all 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: (1) through the purchase of the Penn State sickness and accident insurance policy, or (2) 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, 302 Student Health Center, 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.

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 the Directorate International Student Advising (DISA) at www.international.psu.edu/international_students/financial_guarantee_req.htm. Or you can contact DISA at 814-865-6348 or via e-mail at international@ip.psu.edu.

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 DISA 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.

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

Once you have received an offer of admission from Penn State and paid your acceptance fees, the Directorate of International Student Advising will start a file for issuing the appropriate visa eligibility document. For details on visa documentation, please visit www.global.psu.edu/international_students/student_visa_cfm.