

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

International Applicants

In addition to program specific deadlines, we strongly encourage non-immigrant international students (F-1 or J-1 visa status) to complete the application process, including the submission of all required documents, as soon as possible. The earlier the application is complete and a decision made, the more time students will have to complete the visa process.

Towson University requires that applicants who received a degree outside the United States submit to Admissions a copy of their educational records, plus an original assessment of their records from a credential-evaluating service center. This applies to applicants who are citizens and non-citizens of the United States. The assessment should include a course-by-course evaluation of the student's academic records, including the degree received and GPA. This assessment usually takes three to four weeks and should be sent directly to Admissions.

Among the authorized credential evaluation service centers are:

WES
World Education Services
Bowling Green Station
P.O. Box 5087
New York, NY 10274
t. 212-966-6311 f. 212-739-6100

ECE
Educational Credential Evaluators
PO Box 514070
Milwaukee, WI 53203
414-289-3400

SpanTran
SpanTran Evaluation Company
450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 804
New York, NY 10123
t. 646-475-2570 f. 713-789-6022

IERF
International Education Research Foundation
PO Box 3665
Culver City, CA 90231
t. 310-258-9451

Full-Time Study Requirement

Non-immigrant international students (F-1 or J-1 visa status) are required to enroll for full-time study. Full time study is defined as a minimum of 9 units for each spring, summer and fall terms for students enrolled in master's and post baccalaureate programs. Full-time study is defined as a minimum of 6 units for each spring, summer, and fall terms for students enrolled in doctoral programs. Since the required courses offered by some programs in a term may be less than needed to fulfill the full-time study requirement, students needing to maintain F-1 or J-1 student visa status may be required to take classes not associated with the program in order to comply with immigration regulations. This may

result in increased tuition, fees, and units beyond the normal program requirements.

In addition, non-immigrant international students (F-1 or J-1 visa status) are required to attend the majority of their classes in-person and on campus. Please review the graduate programs complying with F1 and J1 regulations. Non-immigrant international students are not eligible for summer admission.

English Proficiency

Students who received their degree outside the United States must provide official verification of their English competency by submitting an English assessment report from IELTS, TOEFL, Duolingo or PTE Academic testing systems, or successfully complete TU's English Language Center program (through Level VII) with a grade of B or better. Some countries may be exempt from this requirement. However, students may be required to submit test results after an initial review of an application. Please refer to <https://www.towson.edu/admissions/international/english-proficiency.html> for more details.

Admission for International Students Earning a Bachelor's Degree or Higher within the United States

Unless otherwise noted, students who have earned their baccalaureate degree or a higher degree from an accredited U.S. college or university may be eligible to have the English Language Proficiency requirement (TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo, PTE Academic, or ELC through Level VI scores) waived.

International students who are in the process of earning a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited U.S. college or university may also be eligible to have the English Language proficiency requirement waived. Once they have completed the baccalaureate degree or higher, they are to submit evidence that their degree was conferred in order for their application to be considered complete.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

A minimum total score of 6.5 and a minimum score of 6.5 each for Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing are required for admission. Scores are valid for two years after test date. Some programs may require higher scores. Information regarding the IELTS testing system is available online.

Test Of English As A Foreign Language (TOEFL)

A minimum total score of 80 and minimum scores of 20 each for Listening, Speaking Reading, and Writing on the TOEFL iBT (Internet-based) are required for admission. For TOEFL Essentials a minimum total score of 9.0 with scores of 8.5 in each section are required for admission. Scores are valid for two years after test date. Some programs may require higher scores. Information about the TOEFL test is available online.

Towson University's institution code is 5404.

TU is a test site for TOEFL and also administers an institutional TOEFL in the fall, spring, and summer. Information can be obtained from TU's English Language Center at 410-704-2552.

Duolingo

A minimum score of 115 is required for admission. Scores are valid for two years after test date. Some programs may require higher scores. Information about the Duolingo test is available online.

PTE Academic

A minimum total communicative skills score of 57 and a minimum score of 57 in listening, speaking, reading, and writing are required, except where noted. Scores are valid for two years after test date. Some programs may require higher scores. Information about the PTE Academic is available online.

Provisional Admission for International Students Earning a Bachelor's Degree or Higher Outside of the United States

TU offers provisional admission in select programs for applicants who meet all of the Towson University and program specific requirements for full admission except the English Language proficiency requirement. Students who wish to be considered for provisional admission are to contact the TU Admissions Office at grads@towson.edu. Students who are provisionally admitted must complete the following before enrolling in any graduate courses:

- Enroll in the TU English Language Center and successfully complete ELC classes through VII with a grade of B or better
- or earn and confirm the required English Language Proficiency scores (TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo or PTE Academic) prior to the start of the admission term.

Students should contact the Admissions Office for a list of programs that can offer provisional admission.

Pre-Degree For International Students

TU offers international students the opportunity to apply for admission prior to the receipt of the bachelor's degree. There are certain conditions under which international students may apply for the status of pre-degree. Pre-degree admission does not guarantee that a student will be eligible to enroll for the intended admit term. All deadlines and requirements must be met, including but not limited to academic and immigration requirements, in order for a student to enroll at TU.

Students should submit their final degree reports by June 15 (October 1 for students seeking spring admission).

Required: At the time of application, students will submit a credential evaluation of their academic records and a letter of verification from their college or university validating that the student will be eligible for graduation at the completion of the current term. The final transcript indicating conferral of a bachelor's-level degree will be evaluated by Towson Admissions. If students wish to have the I-20 form express mailed, express mailing charges and administrative fees associated with this process will be assessed. Students admitted prior to the receipt of their bachelor's degrees who are unable to obtain the necessary documents to begin course work at TU before the start of their admit term may request a deferment to the next term. The request must be in writing to TU Admissions at grads@towson.edu. A deferment letter is sent to students showing the new starting term. The International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO) is notified and can issue a new I-20

form to the student, if and when the student requests, for the next term. Deferment I-20 forms will not be express mailed from TU Admissions.