

# Admission to the University

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## Admission of International Students

The University of Mississippi welcomes the enrollment of qualified international students. Any applicant who does not hold U.S. citizenship, regardless of where he or she resides, is considered "international" and must check "international student" on his or her online application.

International students fall into the following categories:

- **Degree-seeking students:** Applicants intending to enroll in an academic degree program, applying for "conditional admission," or intending to take courses in preparation for a graduate degree program or for personal enrichment.
- **Exchange, visiting, pre-college programs, etc., students:** See <http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/international/> for information on requirements for admission as a non-degree-seeking student.
- **Intensive English Language (IEP) students:** See <http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/iep/> for information on requirements for admission as an English language learner.

## Application Forms, Fees, and Deadlines

International students interested in undergraduate admission must apply online at <http://www.international.olemiss.edu/apply.html>. A nonrefundable application fee of \$50 (subject to change) must accompany the online application. Applications submitted without this fee will not be processed. International applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for admission no later than six months prior to their desired enrollment term. The application deadlines are April 1 for fall term admission and October 1 for spring term admission. Applications received after the stated application deadlines will be considered on a space-available basis. (Fall term begins in mid-August; spring term begins in mid-January.)

## Requirements and Criteria for International Admission

The documents required to accompany the online form and application fee, and the criteria for admission to a degree program, depend on the applicant's classification and on where he/she has received his/her previous education.

### Classification

**International Freshman:** An international applicant who has completed the equivalent of 12 years or more of elementary and secondary schooling based on his/her country's educational system and who has never attended a college or university.

**International Transfer:** An international applicant who has already completed course work at the higher education level (college or university), including a person who holds a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university and who is interested in taking additional undergraduate course work.

### Location of Prior Education:

**Abroad:** The secondary school from which the freshman applicant graduated, or the college or university from which the transfer applicant is transferring, is outside the U.S. **U.S.-outside Mississippi:** The high school from which the freshman applicant has graduated, or the college or university from which the transfer applicant is transferring, is located within the U.S. but outside the state of Mississippi. **Mississippi:** The high school from which the freshman applicant has graduated, or the college or university from which the transfer applicant is transferring, is located within the state of Mississippi.

**International Freshman/Transfer** applicants graduating from a secondary school or transferring from a college or university abroad must provide the following items and meet the following criteria. Submit in hard-copy format to the Office of Admissions:

- Official or officially certified transcripts and degree certificates:
  - **Freshman:**
    - Official English language transcripts from secondary school(s) attended; degree certificate if already graduated
    - Evidence of college preparatory curriculum, achieving a minimum 3.00 cumulative high school grade-point average on a 4.00 scale (or its equivalent)
    - SAT/ACT is not required
  - **Transfer:**
    - Official English language transcripts from all colleges and universities attended; degree certificate if already graduated
    - Minimum 2.50 cumulative college or university grade-point average on a 4.00 scale (or its equivalent)
    - Transcripts and degree certificates from secondary school(s) required of those who have completed fewer than 30 credits (or the equivalent of one year of full-time enrollment) at a college or university



- Copy of passport identification pages, if available, to help ensure accuracy of name and birth date.
- Affidavit of Financial Support if intending to hold F-1 or J-1 visa status. Although not required for admission, submitting the affidavit with other application materials expedites the admissions/enrollment processes.
- English proficiency test score. A score for one of the following that meets the indicated minimum must be submitted by the testing agency to the Office of Admissions.
  - Minimum total score of 79 on the TOEFL-IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language-Internet Based Test - [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)), OR
  - Minimum overall band score: 6.00 on the IELTS test (Intensive English Language Testing System - <http://www.ielts.org>), OR
  - Minimum total score of 53 on the PTE-A (Pearson Test of English-Academic - <http://pearsonpte.com>), OR
  - Minimum score of 80 percent on the EC English Language Centres' Upper Intermediate Level Test, OR
  - Minimum grade of B on the ELS Educational Services Inc.'s ELS 112 course (English for Academic Purposes)
  - Please see below the conditions for exemption from the English language proficiency test requirement and for options for those not meeting the above-mentioned standards.
  - Exceptions to the above may apply. Please contact the Office of International Programs (OIP) for further information.  
<http://www.international.olemiss.edu/internationaladmissions.html>

**International Freshman/Transfer** applicants graduating from a secondary school or transferring from a college or university in the U.S., whether in Mississippi or elsewhere, must meet the admissions requirements as listed in the section titled Admission of Freshman and Transfer Students in this catalog. Additionally, they must provide:

- Copy of passport identification pages, if available, to help ensure accuracy of name and birth date.
- Affidavit of Financial Support if intending to hold F-1 or J-1 visa status. Although not required for admission, submitting the affidavit with other application materials expedites the admissions/enrollment processes.
- English proficiency test score. A score for one of the following that meets the indicated minimum must be submitted by the testing agency to the Office of Admissions.
  - Minimum total score of 79 on the TOEFL-IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language - Internet Based Test - [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)), OR
  - Minimum overall band score: 6.00 on the IELTS test (Intensive English Language Testing System - <http://www.ielts.org>), OR
  - Minimum total score of 53 on the PTE-A (Pearson Test of English-Academic - <http://pearsonpte.com>), OR
  - Minimum score of 80 percent on the EC English Language Centres' Upper Intermediate Level Test, OR
  - Minimum grade of B on the ELS Educational Services Inc.'s ELS 112 course (English for Academic Purposes)
  - Please see below the conditions for exemption from the English language proficiency test requirement and for options for those not meeting the above-mentioned standards.
  - Exceptions to the above may apply. Please contact the Office of International Programs (OIP) for further information.  
<http://www.international.olemiss.edu/internationaladmissions.html>
- Copy of their U.S. visa or I-94 form (H4, L2, etc.), permanent resident card, or other documentation related to one's status in the U.S.

Undergraduate international applicants may be admitted to pre-professional programs. But admission to a pre-professional program does not guarantee admission to the corresponding professional program. Admission to professional programs, to which Mississippi residents have priority consideration, is generally determined after students have completed a set of core courses as determined by the program. Undergraduate international students are not eligible for admission to the schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry.

### English Language Proficiency Requirements for Admission to the University

The ability to communicate effectively in the English language is critically important to students' academic and personal success as well as to safety in laboratories and other academic and research environments.

International applicants whose primary language is not English and/or who have completed their secondary or tertiary education primarily outside of the U.S. must submit official scores of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or Pearson Test of English-Academic (PTE-A), the final examination score on the EC English Language Centres' Upper Intermediate course, or the final grade on ELS Educational Services Inc.'s ELS 112 course as evidence of English language proficiency. English language proficiency requirements may be met by providing qualifying test scores. To be considered official, test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the university and be less than two years old. The TOEFL school-code for the University of Mississippi is 1840.

- TOEFL-Internet based test: 79 or higher
- TOEFL-Paper based test: 550 or higher
- IELTS: 6.00 overall band score or higher
- PTE-A: 53 or higher
- EC English Language Centres' Upper Intermediate course: final examination score of 80 percent or higher
- ELS Educational Services Inc.'s ELS 112 course: B grade or higher

The following applicants are exempt from submitting one of the above English language proficiency scores:

- International applicants who show evidence of having completed the Advanced Plus Course at the University of Mississippi's Intensive English Program with a grade of B or higher (see <http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/iep> for further information).
- International applicants who apply for admission as degree-seeking freshmen and who have completed all four years of high school education at, and graduated from, an accredited high school in the U.S. Such applicants must, however, comply with the admission standards for domestic



(i.e., U.S.) applicants as stated in the undergraduate catalog.

- International applicants who apply for admission as degree-seeking transfer students and who have completed at least 30 credits, including two English Writing/Composition courses, at an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S., and who have earned a cumulative grade-point average of 2.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale, and a grade of 2.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale on each of the English writing/composition courses.
- International applicants who have earned a higher education degree (including the equivalent of an associate or bachelor's degree) in, or who are citizens of, one of a group of countries listed on the English Language Test Requirement exemption list (see <http://www.international.olemiss.edu/internationaladmissions.html>).

Applicants with English proficiency scores that are lower than the above minima may be admitted as follows:

- Applicants with scores of 69-78 TOEFL IBT; 5.50 IELTS; or 47-52 PTE-A may be admitted but are required to enroll in IE 090 English for International Students and IE 091 Academic Writing Lab for International Students during their first term of enrollment at the university and, if necessary, in subsequent terms until they complete the courses successfully.
- Students who lack an acceptable English proficiency score and who wish to be considered for an exemption from the IE 090/IE 091 requirement may choose to take the English Placement Test upon arrival at the university. The English Placement Test is offered by the university's ETS Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Center. The IE 090/IE 091 requirement is waived for international students who score at least 80 on the English Placement Test. The cost of the English Placement Test is the responsibility of the test taker.
- Conditional admission may be granted to applicants with English proficiency scores below 69 TOEFL IBT; 5:50 IELTS; 47 PTE-A who meet all other requirements for undergraduate admission, provided that they submit a written request to the Office of International Programs and ask for "Conditional Admission status." Students granted conditional admission will be permitted to enroll in undergraduate academic courses only after demonstrating satisfactory English language proficiency as required for unconditional admission (see above).

Please note that admission to the University of Mississippi's Intensive English Language Program requires a separate application process in addition to the application process for conditional undergraduate admission (see <http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/iep/index.html>).

### **Intensive English Program**

620 All American Drive

662-915-1560

[iep@olemiss.edu](mailto:iep@olemiss.edu)

The Intensive English Program (IEP) provides English language instruction for international students who wish to study at the University of Mississippi or other institutions in the United States. The IEP offers core classes in speaking and listening, reading, writing, and grammar at six different ability levels as well as content-based courses such as American Culture, Intercultural Communication, and Pronunciation. Full-time students are registered for between 12 and 18 hours of non-degree credit. The IEP also offers a non-credit TOEFL preparation course for an additional fee. In addition to its academic program, the IEP plans and offers cultural activities as well as encourages its students to participate in on- and off-campus events. The program follows the university semester schedule and includes two one-month sessions in the summer. Special shorter programs are available. Arrangements for these must be made in advance with the program coordinator.

IEP students are considered to be international students and are subject to all regulations and fees pertaining to international students. Application forms are available from the Intensive English Program as well as from the Office of International Programs. Attending the IEP does not guarantee admission into an academic program at the University of Mississippi. Tuition and book fees for the Intensive English Program are listed in the Fees and Expenses section.

### **Estimated Costs**

The estimated minimum cost of attending the University of Mississippi for each 12-month period may be found at [www.international.olemiss.edu](http://www.international.olemiss.edu). Costs include tuition (including base tuition and nonresident fees), the international student service fee, anticipated health insurance costs, and the estimated costs for housing, meals, and books.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services requires international applicants who intend to hold F-1 or J-1 status to provide evidence of solvency to meet the estimated costs (as set by the university) of at least the first year of study prior to the issuance of Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Non-Immigrant [F-1] Student Status for Academic and Language Study) or Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor [J-1] Status). Evidence of solvency must be provided as part of the Affidavit of Financial Support.

### **International Student Scholarships**

Please contact the Office of International Programs for information on scholarships for international undergraduate students, or see <http://www.international.olemiss.edu/financialcurrent.html>.

### **Health Insurance for International Students**

The University of Mississippi requires all international students who hold a temporary nonimmigrant status and who enroll in academic courses to have adequate health insurance coverage. Therefore, all international students, with the exception of those with H-1 status, will be automatically enrolled in the university-contracted student health insurance policy upon their registration for university courses for fall and spring semesters, with the cost of such policy subsequently added to each student's bursar bill. The policy includes health/medical insurance coverage as well as medical evacuation and repatriation of remains in the event of a medical emergency or death. Exemptions to the health insurance policy will be considered on the basis of pre-stated conditions on a case-by-case basis. For further information, please contact the Office of International Programs, or [see \[international.olemiss.edu/health-care-and-insurance\]\(http://www.international.olemiss.edu/health-care-and-insurance\)](http://www.international.olemiss.edu/health-care-and-insurance).

