International Student Admissions

Requirements For Admission

The Office of Immigration and International Admissions at the University of South Alabama provides special services and programs for non-U.S. Citizens and is responsible for the processing of applications for admission submitted by non-citizens. The following are the specific requirements needed by the applicants.

Application Deadlines

All necessary documents must be received by the established deadline as indicated below for the semester the student wishes to enter. Applications completed after the deadline will be considered for the following term, unless otherwise requested by the student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadlines</th>
<th>Outside the United States</th>
<th>Inside the United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall - June 15</td>
<td>Fall - July 15</td>
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<td>Spring - November 1</td>
<td>Spring - December 1</td>
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<td>Summer - April 1</td>
<td>Summer - May 1</td>
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Undergraduate International Applicants

I. Non-citizen Application for Admission - The Non-citizen Application for Admission must be completed and signed by the applicant. A nonrefundable $35.00 application fee, payable through a U.S. bank, must accompany the application. Applications received without the $35.00 processing fee will not be processed.

II. Academic Records - Complete and certified academic records of all secondary and postsecondary education attempted must be submitted. Whenever possible, the records must be forwarded directly from the issuing institution to the University of South Alabama. Copies must be certified by an official of the government or school (e.g., Registrar or Dean). Notarized copies are not accepted.

III. English Proficiency

A. TOEFL

1. Nonimmigrant applicants whose native language is not English, must submit a score of 61 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for admission. Applicants who hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree from a regionally accredited United States institution are exempt. Students transferring from postsecondary institutions within the United States are exempt, subject to the following conditions:
   a. transfer credits total at least 24 semester hours; and
   b. completion of English Composition I with grade of "C" or above.

2. The exempted transfer students ARE NOT subject to the proficiency examination discussed below. In addition the TOEFL may be substituted with the following:
   a. SAT Reading Test Score of 24
   b. ACT English score of 19
   c. Advanced Level English examinations from the United Kingdom with a score of "A", "B" or "C/A-E"
   d. A minimum IELTS score of 5.5.
   e. International Test of English Proficiency (iTEP) score of 3.6
   f. Pearson (PTE Academic) score of 44
B. English Proficiency - International students, admitted with the minimum TOEFL or IELTS score, will be required to take additional English as a Second Language courses if their IELTS Reading subscore is less than a 5.5 and if their IELTS Writing subscore is less than a 5.5 or if their TOEFL Reading subscore is less than 20 and if their Writing subscore is less than 20. Students holding J-1 visas and those holding baccalaureate or graduate degrees from regionally accredited United States postsecondary institutions are exempt.

IV. Financial Statement - Non-immigrants must provide proof that sufficient finances are available to undertake their entire course of study.

Notification: Students are notified of admissions decisions as soon as all required documents are received. The I-20 or DS-2019 is mailed to students with the letter of admission.

Transfer Credit from Foreign Institutions - Students transferring to the University from foreign postsecondary institutions must submit a detailed course syllabus from which to evaluate transfer credit. Advanced Placement credit is available from a number of worldwide sources: contact the Office of International Services for details. Students may secure a professional evaluation of academic credentials at their own expense. Course-by-course professional evaluation is required of transfer students accepted into the College of Education and Professional Studies and students applying to the professional component of any program in the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions.

(See the section below entitled "Additional Information for all International Students").

Graduate International Applicants

I. Non-citizen Application for Admission - The International Application for Admission must be completed and signed by the applicant. A nonrefundable $35.00 application fee, payable through a U.S. Bank, must accompany the application. Applications received without the $35.00 application fee will not be processed.

II. Academic Records - Complete and certified academic records of all secondary and postsecondary education attempted must be submitted. Please note consolidated marksheets are not accepted. Whenever possible, the records must be forwarded directly from the issuing institution to the University of South Alabama. Copies must be certified by an official of the government or school (e.g., Registrar or Dean). Notarized copies are not accepted.

III. English Proficiency
   A. International students, admitted with the minimum TOEFL or IELTS score, will be required to take additional English as a Second Language courses if their IELTS Reading subscore is less than a 5.5 and if their IELTS Writing subscore is less than a 5.5 or if their TOEFL Reading subscore is less than 20 and if their Writing subscore is less than 20. Successful completion of 015 and 016 must be completed within the first 2 semesters of enrollment at the University of South Alabama.
   B. Students holding J-1 visas and those holding baccalaureate or graduate degrees from regionally accredited United States postsecondary institutions are exempt. Permanent Residents who submit transcripts from regionally accredited United States secondary or postsecondary institutions with at least two full years of course work are also exempt.

IV. Standardized Tests - Standardized test requirements for the various academic programs are listed in the appropriate sections of the Bulletin. All test scores must be official documents sent directly from the testing service which administered the examination.

V. Recommendation Letters - Three original letters of recommendation are required of all nonimmigrant applicants. The letters should be written by persons familiar with the applicant's academic qualifications and ability to undertake the proposed course of study.

VI. Financial Statement - Non immigrants must provide proof that sufficient finances are available to undertake their entire course of study. Applicants for graduate assistantships should contact the appropriate department directly for information and assistantship applications.

VII. Narrative Statement of Purpose - A narrative Statement of Purpose written by applicant is required. Three original letters of recommendation written by persons familiar with the applicant's academic qualifications and ability to undertake the proposed course of study are also required.

Notification: Students are notified of the Graduate Dean's admission decision as soon as all required documents are received and the Graduate Dean has received a recommendation from the appropriate graduate program. The I-20 or DS-2019 is mailed to students with the letter of admission.
Students wishing to postpone their arrival to a later semester must notify the Office of Immigration and International Admissions in writing. Students who have previously attended USA and who did not register for the semester in which they were accepted, but who wish to register for the same graduate program in the same academic year must update their admissions through the Office of Immigration and International Admissions. First-time students who did not register for the semester for which they were accepted but who wish to register for the same graduate program in the same academic year must submit written requests to update their applications to the Office of Immigration and International Admissions. The address is given at the end of this section.

**Additional Information for all International Students Nonimmigrant and International Student Fees** - All international students with nonimmigrant visas are considered nonresidents for tuition purposes and will be assessed a nonresident fee and an international student fee each semester. Permanent residents may qualify for in-state tuition rates.

Orientation - New international students are required to participate in an orientation program prior to their first semester at the University. The orientation program welcomes students to the University, introduces them to staff and students, and familiarizes them with academic procedures and the community.

Medical Insurance - The University requires all international students on nonimmigrant visas to maintain medical insurance coverage. Students must purchase the University's international student health insurance policy at registration.

Address inquiries and questions to:
Office of Immigration and International Admissions

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