

Information for International Students Applying to the University Without Walls at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Included in this document are the following sections:

- I. Requirements to be met by all international students, whether studying from abroad online or studying on campus in Amherst.
 - II. Additional requirements for international students planning to study on campus.
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I. Requirements to be met by all international students, whether studying online or on campus.

A. *English Language Proficiency for All International Students*

UMass Amherst does not offer a comprehensive English language study program for international students.

All international applicants, whether planning to study online from abroad or on campus in Massachusetts, must verify their English language proficiency in one of the following ways:

- Be a native speaker of English in a country where English is the primary language.
- Submit official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum score to qualify for admission is 80 (internet-based TOEFL), 213 (computer-based TOEFL), or 550 (paper TOEFL). An IELTS score of 6.5 is also accepted. Please note that student score reports are not considered official.

www.TOEFL.org

www.IELTS.org

- Complete two non-ESL English composition courses at a U.S. college or university with grades of B or better, as well as several humanities and/or social science courses with above-average grades. The determination about whether or not a student's academic record verifies English language ability is made by the Continuing and Professional Education Admissions Office staff.

IMPORTANT: No application is considered complete until English language proficiency requirements have been fulfilled.

B. *Official Transcripts from Post-Secondary Institutions*

Official original transcripts from all post-secondary institutions are required. In those cases in which an institution does not provide official original transcripts, an official notarized copy will be accepted.

If transcripts are available in English, the applicant should request them in English. Translations are not required for transcripts in French, Spanish, Italian, German, or Portuguese. Applicants with transcripts in all other languages must provide an official translation with the signature and title of the translator. An applicant may not translate his or her own documents. The University of Massachusetts Amherst Translation Center offers translation services for a fee, if needed.

Though secondary school transcripts are not required for admission, it is possible for applicants to receive college credit for certain kinds of secondary programs. The most common credentials awarded college credit are the abitur in the German system, the international baccalaureate, the French baccalaureat, and the advanced level and advanced subsidiary level exams in the British system.

Transfer Credit Evaluations

Evaluation of previous courses and credits will be conducted only after all required application materials, including official transcripts, have been received by the Continuing and Professional Education Admissions Office.

Some applicants, especially those applying to more than one institution, may elect to hire a commercial evaluation service to review and evaluate their credentials. While these evaluations can be helpful in giving the applicant an understanding of how his or her educational background is likely to be considered by American institutions, each institution has different transfer credit policies. Only an official evaluation by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Admissions Office will accurately reflect UMass Amherst transfer credit policies.

Some reputable evaluation services include:

Center for Educational Documentation
P.O. Box 326
Boston, MA 02130-0003
(617) 522-4738
FAX (617) 983-5232
www.cedevaluations.com

World Education Services
P.O. Box 745
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
(212) 966-6311 or (800) 937-3895
FAX (212) 739-6100
www.wes.org

Educational Credential Evaluators
Institute
P.O. Box 514070
Milwaukee, WI 53203-3740
(414) 289-3400
FAX (414) 289-3411
www.ece.org

Academic Credentials Evaluation
P.O. Box 6908
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(310) 275-3530 or (800) 234-1597
FAX (310) 275-3528
www.acei1.com

II. Additional requirements to be met by international students planning to study on campus in Amherst

A. Applications accepted only for entry in a fall semester.

Because the process for acceptance and obtaining a visa to study on the Amherst campus takes significantly longer to complete, international students wishing to come from abroad to enter UWW while living near the Amherst campus *will be reviewed only for entry in September for the fall semester*. The application deadline for entry in September is May 15, but all international applicants in this group should begin the application process as early as possible after February 1.

B. Demonstration of financial ability to cover costs of study

International students intending to attend UWW while living in the Amherst area must submit the following additional documents with their applications. Once these documents have been approved, the International Programs Office will issue the necessary documents to submit when seeking a visa.

- **Sponsor statement:** This form is available online from the International Programs Office at www.umass.edu/ipo. Applicants may sponsor themselves by promising to pay for their own educational and living expenses. Otherwise another person, organization, or agency may certify support by completing this form. The original form, not a copy, must be submitted.
- **Bank statement:** An original current bank statement indicating the ability to pay for educational expenses. The amounts required to cover these expenses is posted on the International Programs Office (www.umass.edu/ipo) web site.

B. Limits on enrollment in online courses

On-campus international students are prohibited by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) requirements from enrolling in more than one online course per semester.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? If, after reading all of the information given above, you still have questions about the application process for international students, please contact the Continuing & Professional Education Admissions Office at admissions@contined.umass.edu.