UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the application deadline?

Fall (September) Semester:
  Freshman Early Action – November 1
  • Supporting credentials must be submitted within two weeks of deadline
  Freshman Regular Decision – January 15
  • Supporting credentials must be submitted within two weeks of deadline
  Transfer – April 15
  • Supporting credentials must be submitted within two weeks of deadline

  Late applications for Fall: Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis only.

Spring (January) Semester:
  Freshman and Transfer – October 1
  • Supporting credentials must be submitted within two weeks of deadline

  Late applications for Spring: Because of the time required for visa processing, international applicants who are currently studying in the U.S. may apply late for Spring on a space-available basis. However, international students who are not currently studying in the U.S. may not apply late for the Spring semester; late international applicants will be considered for the following Fall semester instead.

How do students apply for admission?

UMass Amherst uses the Common Application:
www.umass.edu/admissions/apply/application-procedures

What documents must be submitted in support of an application?

Freshman applicants:
www.umass.edu/admissions/apply/application-procedures/checklist-freshman-applicants

Transfer applicants:
www.umass.edu/admissions/apply/application-procedures/checklist-transfer-applicants

NOTE: Transfer applicants from China must submit verified transcripts directly from CDGDC. Non-English transcripts must also be submitted with a certified translation.
Secondary school exams:
If an applicant’s high school (or secondary school) is in a country which requires national or state exams in order to progress to higher educational levels, then we require a copy of official exam results for any exams completed prior to applying for admission. Some examples are: GCSE ordinary, advanced subsidiary, and advanced level exams; Indian secondary school certificate, higher secondary school certificate, or intermediate examination certificate; Caribbean secondary education certificate (CSEC) or Caribbean advanced proficiency examination (CAPE).

Are SAT scores required for international students?
All freshman applicants and all first-year transfer applicants must submit SAT scores. We do not waive the SAT requirement for international students.

How do students demonstrate English language proficiency?
All non-native speakers of English must demonstrate English language proficiency:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS: Official copies of scores must be submitted directly from the testing agency. Student copies are not considered official. A minimum score of 80 or better on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT) or 213 or better on the computer-based TOEFL is required, although achieving this score does not guarantee admission. An IELTS score of 6.5 or higher is also acceptable.
- SAT/ACT: Applicants with strong SAT/ACT writing scores may receive a TOEFL/IELTS waiver.

Is it possible to get an application fee waiver?
Since international students must verify that they have adequate finances to pay for their education, requesting a fee waiver indicates that they do not have adequate finances and therefore would not be able to enroll. For this reason, we do not waive application fees for international students.

If the method of payment is a problem (for example, you do not have a credit card), then please contact us at mail@admissions.umass.edu for electronic wire instructions.

Will students obtain transfer credit for secondary school credentials?
Some official secondary school examination score results may yield transfer credit, which may be used towards a degree program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Advanced Placement (AP) and SAT II Exams:
www.umass.edu/admissions/apply/transferring-credit

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma:
www.umass.edu/admissions/apply/transferring-credit

GSCE advanced subsidiary and advanced level exams:
Official copies of exam results must be submitted.
Caribbean advanced proficiency examination (CAPE):
Official copies of exam results must be submitted.

Some French baccalaureate, German abitur, Italian maturita, and Swiss maturite examination results may yield transfer credit. Official copies of exam results must be submitted.

Will students obtain transfer credit for international post-secondary coursework?

Due to the time involved in international transfer credit evaluations, we do not evaluate international transcripts for prospective students. The Undergraduate Admissions Office evaluates international transcripts during the admissions review and students receive preliminary transfer credit evaluations as part of their admit package.

Are there scholarships for international students?

Freshman admits: International freshman admits may qualify for merit scholarships. However, there are no need-based scholarships for international freshman admits.
Transfer admits: There are no scholarships for transfer admits.

Is it possible for international students to pay in-state tuition at UMass Amherst?

For dependent students, tuition residency is determined based on the residency of the parents. If both parents reside outside Massachusetts, then international students will be classified as out-of-state students for tuition residency purposes. Relatives or friends of the family who serve as support contacts in the U.S. do not qualify international students for in-state tuition residency. Residing in Massachusetts as a full-time student will not later qualify a student for in-state tuition residency. Students on F-1, F-2, J-1, and J-2 visas will not qualify for in-state tuition.

Exceptions: Students residing in Massachusetts who have applied for permanent residency or asylum and who can submit INS documents verifying their application has been received and/or is in process may qualify for in-state tuition residency if their family meets other in-state tuition residency requirements. In addition, students residing in Massachusetts on some visas (A, E, G, H, I, K, L, N, O, R, S, T, U, V visas) and who can submit documentation of their visa status may qualify for in-state tuition residency if their family meets other in-state tuition residency requirements. In these cases, students may contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office at 413-545-0222 after applying for admission to obtain more detailed information about how to pursue an in-state tuition residency review.

How do students get a student (F) or exchange visitor visa (J) from UMass Amherst?

The International Programs Office works with admitted students on visa-related matters: www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/degree.php

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