

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Florida International University encourages and accepts applications from qualified applicants without regard to sex, physical handicap, national origin, cultural, racial, religious or ethnic background or association.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION INTO GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Applicants to a graduate program of the University must meet the minimum standards set forth by the University and the program. Applicants must check the individual program requirements before submitting their applications.

A student seeking admission into a graduate program offered by the University must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or, in the case of foreign students, from a well established institution of higher learning that is authorized to grant degrees by appropriate authorities in that country. The applicant must submit official transcripts, test scores and other supporting documents to Florida International University, Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 659004, Miami, FL. 33265-9004. All credentials and documents submitted to Office of Admissions become the property of Florida International University. FIU will not return original documents to the applicant or forward to another institution.

In the absence of specific program admission requirements, the applicant should have a minimum of a "B" average in the last 60 credits of upper level work, or a graduate degree from an accredited institution.

Degree programs individually determine admission requirements with respect to requiring nationally-normed examinations and the required scores.

Admissions at the graduate level are competitive and meeting minimum program requirements does not guarantee admission.

An applicant who fails to meet criteria may gain admission via an exception to the admissions standards initiated by the specific academic department/program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students interested in applying for admission into a graduate degree program or a graduate certificate must submit their applications online by visiting FIU's website at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.shtml> for applications and instructions. Applicants are charge a \$30.00 non-refundable fee (U.S. Dollars) for each online application.

Application Deadlines for Domestic Students	
SEMESTER	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Fall	June 1/Ph.D. February 15
Spring	October 1
Summer	March 1

Note: Individual programs may have earlier deadlines . Applicants should check with their desired program to determine the application deadline.

INACTIVATION PROCESS

Applications are valid for term of application only. An academic department/program, on behalf of an applicant,

may request deferral to a future term. Applications, without a department/program decision or remain incomplete, will be cancelled by the ADD/DROP date of the applicable term. Likewise, No-Shows (admitted students who do not enroll for the term of admission) will have their admission revoked. Applicants seeking to reactive their admissions file must submit a new application and application fee.

READMISSION

An admitted degree-seeking student who has not enrolled in any course at the University for three (3) or more consecutive terms, including the summer term, will be required to apply for re-admission. (This policy does not apply to students on military withdrawals or approved Leave of Absence - LOA.) Students applying for readmission must meet the University and program regulations in effect at the time of application for readmission. Applications for readmission and initial admission follow the same process. However, readmission does not require the resubmission of previously submitted documentation. If the applicant has completed courses at another institution of higher education since attending FIU, the applicant must also submit transcripts from that institution. Doctoral readmission requires the academic unit to follow the Doctoral Readmissions Procedures outlined in the UGS's website.

CONDITIONAL MASTER'S ADMISSION

Masters' level graduate program may recommend conditional admission to applicants with undergraduate upper-level coursework GPAs below 3.00 or with standardized test scores below program requirements. Students who have already taken 9 graduate credits at FIU are not eligible for conditional admission. Graduate credit (fewer than 9) earned will count towards satisfying the conditional admission. Applicants to Doctoral or Ph.D. level programs are not eligible.

Students admitted conditionally are required to: achieve a GPA of 3.00 or higher for the first 9 graduate-level credits and complete these 9 credits within the first three consecutive semesters, beginning with the term of admission. International students admitted under these terms must fulfill the criteria at the end of their first semester of enrollment.

TRANSFER OF GRADUATE CREDIT FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Doctoral programs may accept up to 20% of the required total coursework, subject to approval of the Program Director, of graduate credit earned from another institution beyond a bachelor's degree. An exception is made for courses contained within an earned master's or doctoral degree. For such courses, the maximum is one fewer than half of the total credits required for the program.

Education Specialist and Master's degree programs may accept up to 20% of the required total coursework, subject to approval of the Program Director, of graduate credit earned from another institution beyond a bachelor's degree.

Acceptance of transfer credits for a course is dependent upon the following provisions:

- a. the student received a grade of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale
- b. the course was taken at an accredited institution
- c. the course was relevant, as judged by the admissions committee of the department or program, to the graduate program in which the student is accepted
- d. the course is listed on an official transcript received by the Office of Admissions Office
- e. the course will not be older than six years at the time of receipt of a master's degree or nine years at the time of receipt of a doctoral degree (does not apply to credits earned as part of a completed graduate degree program)

Note: Students should verify this information with the appropriate Graduate Program Director.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

The Office of Admissions must receive official transcripts directly from the issuing institution. Transcripts received through other channels are unofficial. Documents in a language other than English require translation by an official translation agency. Notarized translations are not acceptable.

ADMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In addition to the general University admissions requirements, foreign applicants must be academically eligible for graduate level study in their own country. Applicants from non-English speaking countries including internationally educated domestic students must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by presenting a minimum score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL (equivalent to 550 on the paper-based version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language), or 6.5 overall on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). However, some departments/programs may require higher scores. Applicants who hold an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution within the United States or other English speaking countries are not required to submit English proficiency exam scores. The applicant must check the individual departmental/program requirements.

International student applicants must meet all the admission requirements of the University as described in previous sections and comply with the following:

Application Deadlines for International Students

Due to the additional processing time needed, international students should submit their applications and supporting documents much earlier than students who are U.S. Citizens or Residents. International student deadlines are as follows:

SEMESTER	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Fall	June 1/PhD February 15
Spring	October 1
Summer	February 1

Note: Individual programs may have earlier deadlines. Applicants should check with their desired program to determine the application deadline.

Tuition for International Students

International students on F-1 or J-1 visas do not qualify for Florida residency and are assessed non-resident fees.

ANNUAL ESTIMATE¹ OF COSTS FOR NEW² INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS	
Single Student (18 semester hours)	
Tuition and Fees³	\$18,429
Living Expenses⁴	\$15,366
Books and Supplies	\$1,852
Medical Insurance⁵	\$2,141
Total	\$37,788

¹ Based on 2018-2019 costs.
² Admitted for Fall 2006 or thereafter.
³ Tuition and fees are subject to change. Fees include: Student Health Fee (\$187.38 per year), the Athletics Fee (\$20.00 per semester) and Transportation Access Fee (\$181.40). Amounts shown reflect 18 graduate credit hours during Fall and Spring terms only.
⁴ Living Expenses are estimated at \$1,707.00 per month to cover room, board, transportation, and personal expenses. This cost is for nine months.
⁵ All international students are required to carry medical insurance. This cost is for twelve months.

Declaration and Certification of Finances

The Declaration and Certification of Finances (DCF) must be completed and returned to International Admissions. Only admitted students receive a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20) for procurement of an F-1 student visa.

Immigration authorities require the University certify the financial resources of each applicant prior to issuing the Form I-20. It is important that applicants are aware of the cost of attending the University and have the necessary supporting funds for the period of enrollment. Applicants should refer to the Annual Estimate of Cost Chart. Applicants must demonstrate supporting funds equal to the total estimate of costs for one academic year by accurately completing the DCF.

International Admissions must receive the DCF no less than two months prior to the anticipated entry date.

A student with accompanying dependents must show additional financial support on the DCF. An additional \$6,000 is required for a spouse and \$4,000 is required for each child.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

The State of Florida requires that all international students maintain health insurance coverage to help defray the costs in case of catastrophic medical emergency. The policy must provide specific levels of coverage, established to ensure that the policy is adequate to provide for costs at U.S. hospitals, usually much higher than costs in many other parts of the world. In addition, a policy must have a U.S. based claims agent accessible to medical providers to facilitate prompt payment of claims. The University has approved a plan, which meets the state requirements and the needs of most students; however, a student may select alternate coverage provided it meets the state requirements for minimal coverage. A copy of these requirements is available from University Health Services. Students should not to purchase insurance policies prior to arrival without verifying that the policies meet FIU/SUS requirements. Compliance with the insurance regulation is required prior to registration.

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

United States immigration regulations require F-1 student visa holders to enroll full-time, except for the summer terms, and make satisfactory progress toward their degree each term; otherwise, they jeopardize their immigration status. FIU defines full-time graduate enrollment as a minimum of nine semester hours during fall and spring terms and six during summer terms. Doctoral students who have reached candidacy must register for three credits per term. Master's students who have completed all requirements except for the thesis and have an approved thesis on file with the University Graduate School, must register for one credit per term.

It is the student's responsibility to comply with all visa requirements as stated under the United States laws Section 101(a)(15)(f)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

EMPLOYMENT

The legal regulations governing F-1 student employment are complex, and advisors are available in the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to explain these regulations. International students should not rely on employment as a source of income to finance their studies. In general, however, employment is available only to students who maintain their legal status in the U.S. under three categories:

- 1) On-campus employment: F-1 students may be employed on the FIU campuses for a maximum of 20 hours per week during fall and spring semesters while school is in session, and full time during holidays, vacations, and summer. On-campus employment includes teaching and research assistantships for graduate students and hourly part time work.
- 2) Off-campus employment: F-1 students may request off-campus employment under very limited conditions and only after maintaining F-1 status for at least one full academic year.
- 3) Practical training: F-1 students may request training employment to accept jobs related to their studies. Students usually pursue practical training employment after completion of their degrees. In some limited cases, ISSS authorizes students for practical training employment prior to completion of their studies.

Note: The University will not grant admission until an international student has met all requirements. Under no circumstances should an international student come to the University without having received the official Letter of Admission, Form I-20, and have a valid F-1 visa

All correspondence and document submissions should be directed to: Florida International University, Office of Admissions, Graduate Admissions, P.O. Box 659004, Miami, Florida 33265-9004.

CREDIT FOR NON-COLLEGE LEARNING

Graduate credit will not be awarded for life experiences.

In cases where a student's experiences appear sufficient to develop the understanding and skills associated with a course, the student may register for Independent Study credits. The student can demonstrate competency through the development of an appropriate project under the guidance and approval of a faculty member specialized in the specific area of study.

Not more than 10 semester hours of a 30 semester hour master's degree, nor 15 semester hours of a 60 semester hour master's degree, may be earned through Independent Study.