

## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Florida International University (FIU) encourages and accepts applications from qualified applicants without regard to sex; physical handicap; national origin; or 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 an 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, PO Box 659004, Miami, FL 33265-9004. All credentials and documents submitted to Office of Admissions become the property of FIU. FIU will not return original documents to the applicant or forward to other institutions.

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.

Admission at the graduate level is 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 admission standards initiated by the specific academic department or program.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Students interested in applying for admission into a graduate degree program or a graduate certificate program must submit their applications online by visiting FIU's website at [admissions.fiu.edu/how-to-apply/graduate-applicant](https://admissions.fiu.edu/how-to-apply/graduate-applicant) for applications and instructions. Applicants are charged a \$30.00 non-refundable fee (U.S. dollars) for each online application.

<b>Application Deadlines for Domestic Students</b>	<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE</b>
<b>SEMESTER</b>	
Fall	June 1/PhD 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 or program, on behalf of an applicant, may request deferral to a future term. Incomplete applications or applications for which a department or program has not made a decision will be cancelled by the ADD/DROP date of the applicable term. Likewise, No-Shows (i.e., admitted students who do not enroll for the term of admission) will have their admission revoked. Applicants seeking to reactive their admission files must submit new applications and pay application fees.

## READMISSION

An admitted degree-seeking student who has not enrolled in any course at the university for three or more consecutive terms, including the summer term, will be required to apply for readmission. (This policy does not apply to students on military withdrawals or approved leaves of absence [LOA].) Students applying for readmission must meet 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 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 on the University Graduate School website.

## CONDITIONAL MASTER'S ADMISSION

Master's-level graduate programs may recommend conditional admission to applicants who have undergraduate upper-level coursework grade point averages below 3.00 or who have standardized test scores below program requirements. Students who have already taken nine graduate credits at FIU are not eligible for conditional admission. Graduate credits (fewer than nine) earned will count towards satisfying the conditional admission. Applicants to doctoral or PhD-level programs are not eligible for conditional admission.

A student admitted conditionally is required to achieve a grade point average of 3.00 or higher for the first nine graduate-level credits and to complete these nine credits within the first three consecutive semesters, beginning with the term of admission. International students are not eligible for conditional admission due to Student and Exchange Visitor Program guidelines. Academic departments may petition the University Graduate School to fully admit international students on the basis of a holistic review of all admission documentation submitted.

## TRANSFER OF GRADUATE CREDIT FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Subject to approval of the program director, doctoral programs may accept up to 20 percent of the required total coursework 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.

Subject to approval of the program director, education specialist and master's degree programs may accept up to 20 percent of the required total coursework 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:

- The student received a grade of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale;
- The course was taken at an accredited institution;
- As judged by the admission committee of the department or program, the course was relevant to the graduate program in which the student is accepted;
- The course is listed on an official transcript received by the Office of Admissions;
- the course will not be older than 6 years at the time of receipt of a master's degree or 9 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 general university admission 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 Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (equivalent to 550 on the paper-based version of the TOEFL), or 6.5 overall on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). However, some departments or programs may require higher scores. Applicants who hold an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution within the United States or other English-speaking country are not required to submit English proficiency exam scores. Applicants must check individual departmental or program requirements.

International student applicants must meet all the admission requirements of the university, as described in previous sections, and must 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 ESTIMATE<sup>1</sup> OF COSTS FOR NEW<sup>2</sup> INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

Single Student (18 semester hours)	
Tuition and Fees <sup>3</sup>	\$18,428
Living Expenses <sup>4</sup>	\$17,808
Books and Supplies	\$1,000
Medical Insurance <sup>5</sup>	\$2,923
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,159</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2021-2022 costs.

<sup>2</sup> Admitted for fall 2006 or thereafter.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Living expenses are estimated at \$1,933.00 per month to cover room, board, transportation, and personal expenses. This cost is for 9 months.

<sup>5</sup> All international students are required to carry medical insurance. This cost is for 12 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 to 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 Costs chart. Applicants must demonstrate supporting funds equal to the total estimate of costs for 1 academic year by accurately completing the DCF. International Admissions must receive the DCF no less than 2 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 costs in case of catastrophic medical emergencies. The policy must provide specific levels of coverage, established to ensure that the policy is adequate to provide for costs at U.S. hospitals, costs which are usually much higher than those 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 that meets 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 Student Health Services. Students should not purchase insurance policies prior to arrival without verifying that those policies meet FIU and state requirements. Compliance with the insurance regulation is required prior to registration.

## FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

U.S. immigration regulations require F-1 student visa holders to enroll full-time, except for summer terms, and to make satisfactory progress toward their degrees each term; student visa holders who do not make satisfactory progress jeopardize their immigration status. FIU defines full-time graduate enrollment as a minimum of nine semester hours during the fall and spring terms, and six during the summer term. 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 who 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 U.S. laws Section 101(a)(15)(f)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

*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 and Form I-20, and without having a valid F-1 visa.*

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

## 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 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 1 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.

## 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. A student may 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, or 15 semester hours of a 60-semester-hour master's degree, may be earned through independent study.