

International Students

A packet of information for F-1 international students is available from the Admissions and Academic Advising office. International students must provide evidence of financial support sufficient to cover all expenses. A statement assuring full financial responsibility is required and must be signed by the international student and/or their sponsor. The required amount depends on the student's academic level, and assumes full-time enrollment and living expenses to cover three semesters of full-time study. International students must also submit the F-1 Responsibilities Form and the Initial I-20 Request form, which is included in the international packet, along with the Transfer Clearance form if the student is transferring from another school. Federal and state financial aid is only available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. International students, however, are eligible for Walsh College scholarships.

After being admitted to Walsh College, students who enroll on an F-1 visa and require an I-20 must contact a designated school official (DSO)/international student advisor in the Admissions and Academic Advising office for specific requirements. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires that students on a non-immigrant student visa pursue full-time enrollment in a specified undergraduate or graduate degree program.

International students who maintain the specified enrollment status are allowed to work on campus for a maximum of 20 hours per week if positions are available. Off-campus employment is not allowed unless approved by USCIS, and only for practical training or for economic hardship. Students should contact a DSO/international student advisor in the Admissions and Academic Advising office for further information pertaining to employment.

USCIS regulations and rulings are subject to change at any time. Please contact a DSO/international student advisor in the Admissions and Academic Advising office with questions regarding the most current USCIS regulations and rulings.

International students must comply with the requirements in the Catalog, including all College policies. The College is required to report to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security any disciplinary action taken against international students convicted of a crime.

Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions Procedures

To apply to any Walsh College undergraduate or graduate degree program, an online Admissions Application must be submitted along with the non-refundable application fee. Walsh College graduates and former Walsh College students are not required to submit a second application fee. Applications may be submitted online at www.walshcollege.edu/applynow.

Admission applications will be accepted until the beginning of a given semester, upon receipt of all required documents. Applicants will be considered for admission when the Admissions and Academic Advising office receives evidence of the achievement of minimum admissions requirements. Every attempt will be made to process applications in time for accepted

students to enroll in their intended semester of attendance. Full admission to the College will be granted only upon receipt of all official transcripts and required documentation. An individual may initially be admitted on a contingent basis upon a review of unofficial materials and contingent upon receipt of final transcripts and fulfillment of grade point average requirements.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to formally request that official transcripts be sent to Walsh College from all previous academic institutions. Indebtedness or transcript holds at another institution may prevent processing of the admissions application and/or class registration.

Individuals with international transcripts must submit these transcripts to one of the approved agencies specializing in the evaluation of international educational credentials. Any agency that is a member of NACES (www.naces.org) is an approved agency. The most commonly used evaluation agencies are World Education Services (www.wes.org) or Educational Credential Evaluators (www.ece.org). Transcripts should be evaluated on a course by course basis and must be official for full admission. The applicant is responsible for bearing all costs associated with obtaining this evaluation and for submitting these transcripts with sufficient time for this agency evaluation. Only upon the receipt of this evaluation will the applicant be considered for admission to Walsh College.

After receiving the applicant's official transcripts, the Admissions office will evaluate the transfer of academic credits based upon all previous college coursework at the 100/1000 level and above. Any discrepancy between official and unofficial transcripts will result in the adjustment of any previously noted equivalencies, and may affect eligibility for admission or a change in admissions status from contingent to admission denied. Generally accepted transfer policies are practiced along state and federal guidelines. Upon completion of the evaluation, a letter will be sent to the applicant reflecting the status of their application and admission to Walsh College.

An applicant may contact the Admissions and Academic Advising office at any time during this process to inquire about specific policies and procedures or the status of their application. A newly admitted student may enroll in any semester within 12 months following admission to Walsh College. Failure to complete at least one course within the 12 months from admission will necessitate re-application. After 24 months of non-enrollment, the application, official transcripts, and all related documentation will be destroyed.

Admission on a Student Visa

Any individual seeking admission to Walsh College as an international student on an F-1 Student Visa must meet the general admissions requirements for undergraduate or graduate degree programs at Walsh College. The online Admissions Application must be submitted along with the non-refundable application fee. In addition, these individuals must also meet the following requirements:

- Provide proof of English language proficiency if applicable. This must accompany an admissions application from individuals who speak English as a second language (ESL). However, if

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the student meets the written communication requirement, the English language proficiency requirement is waived.

- Provide official statements of financial support through personal or sponsored funds. Additionally, an international student must submit an international packet. This can be found on the Walsh College Website at www.walshcollege.edu/internationalstudents or one can be mailed.
- Purchase health insurance through Walsh College or provide proof of personal coverage. Please visit our Website at www.walshcollege.edu/internationalstudents for more information.
- Arrange for their own living accommodations and transportation to and from campus locations. Walsh College does not offer residential facilities or transportation to classes.
- Have international transcripts evaluated on a course-by-course basis by an approved agency such as World Education Services (www.wes.org) or Educational Credential Evaluators (www.ece.org) and submitted along with the admissions application. The applicant is responsible for all related costs.
- Have maintained good standing of their previous F-1 status (applicable to transfer students) according to United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) regulations.

All application materials should be available for consideration by the international student advisor/DSO at least eight weeks prior to the first date of the semester for which the applicant is seeking admission. Only upon full admission to the College will an I-20 be issued. All student visa holders are required to maintain full-time standing as defined in the Student Enrollment Classification section and pursue their designated program of study.

Non-Native Speakers of English

Individuals seeking application to a graduate, non-degree or certificate program for which English is not their first language must provide proof of English language proficiency. This proof may be in the form of one of the following:

- TOEFL score of 79-80 internet-based, or 550 written;
- MELAB score of 80;
- MTELP score of 80;
- IELTS score of 6.5 (<http://www.ielts.org>);
- Successful completion of Level 112 ELS Language Centers;
- Successful completion of the highest level ESL accredited program;
- Successful completion of an English Composition course from an accredited U.S. institution;
- Completion of a college degree from an accredited English speaking institution.

An official document of these test scores must be sent to Walsh College for consideration in processing the admissions application. The TOEFL & IELTS scores are valid for two years; the MTELP/MELAB scores are valid for five years. Transcripts from the

degree-granting institution may be accepted as proof of English language proficiency. Walsh College retains the right to require re-examination or further English language studies at a qualified institution for any non-native speaker of English. For additional information on international transcript evaluation and admission to the College for those individuals pursuing a student visa, please see the section entitled Admission on a Student Visa.

Walsh College administers the MTELP exam at no charge. Please contact an international students advisor for more details.

Student Enrollment Classification

For visa status compliance, please contact the international student advisor/DSO.

Undergraduate International Students

Full Time 12 semester credit hours or more

Graduate International Students

Full Time 6 semester credit hours or more

Enrollment verification will be determined based on course-level enrollment (undergraduate or graduate) and classification based on number of semester credit hours taken. Only one online course may be taken each semester, per USCIS regulations.

Academic Advising

The admissions and academic advising office provides support programs and services to assist international students in achieving their goals. International students should meet with an international student advisor/DSO if they experience academic difficulties, have questions about their academic program, or seek tutoring assistance. All international students are encouraged to meet with an international student advisor during their first semester and afterward as needed.

The academic Program Plan can be accessed through the student portal upon admission. The Program Plan outlines the course of study at Walsh College based on the Catalog in effect at the time of admittance. Students may change their degree program, major, or update their program to the newest Catalog year, with approval of the international student advisor/DSO in the Admissions and Academic Advising office. They must also meet with the international student advisor/DSO so that appropriate changes can be made to their I-20. Students are encouraged to review their program of study each year.

An advisor can confirm specific courses remaining for program completion and review the cumulative and major grade point average to ensure that students are meeting the expected requirements.

Change of Major, Minor, or Degree Program

An international student, who would like to explore changing majors, minors, or degree, or to add a second major, should see the international student advisor/DSO to discuss alternatives that suit the new interests. A student desiring to change their degree program, major, or minor must officially request this change with

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the international advisor. A complete evaluation will be required to determine appropriateness and fulfillment of admissions criteria for the new degree or major. The student will be placed on the most current program of study and a new Program Plan will be created. All current admissions requirements and policies will apply.

Orientation

The international student advisor conducts a mandatory international student orientation prior to the beginning of the student's first semester. The student's I-20 is distributed at this session. In addition, the orientation provides new international students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the College's policies, curriculum, and most important, F-1 and immigration rules and regulations. Information about student organizations and campus services is available. New students are notified of the date, time, and location upon admission.

Financial Aid

International students with an F-1 visa are not eligible for federal or state financial aid. However, international students may apply for scholarships. For scholarship purposes, an international student must use an approved outside service agency to have an evaluation of international transcripts for U.S. credit and grade equivalents. Scholarship funds will not be awarded without a valid transcript. Contact the Admissions and Academic Advising office for further information.