Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning the Application Process

Q: Who is considered an international student at Temple University?

Students are considered an international student if they hold, or will need to obtain, a non-immigrant visa, including a student visa (F-1), or an exchange visitor visa (J-1).

Q: For students with a dual citizenship, should they note both on the application?

Students should disclose all countries where they hold citizenship or residency ties. Citizenship has no impact on the chances of admission. It is, however, important to provide full disclosure because the University tracks this information for its records, and citizenship or residency status may impact the type of financial aid a student may be able to receive.

Q: What majors and programs of studies are offered at Temple University?

A complete listing of majors and programs of studies offered at Temple University can be viewed online.

Q: How can students request additional information about Temple University and materials focused on international students?

Students can request free informational materials about Temple University online.

Q: What documents should students submit with their application?

Students need to collect the following documents to complete their application:

1. **Official High School and/or University transcripts with English translations:** The application needs to include official and original academic records from all secondary schools, colleges, and/or universities the students have attended.

2. **Standardized Tests:**
   - **Freshman Applicants:** All first-year applicants must submit the results of at least one of the following tests: SAT, ACT, TOEFL iBT ®, IELTS, or PTE.
   - **Transfer Applicants:** Transfer students should submit either the TOEFL iBT ®, IELTS, or PTE unless they meet one of the following exemptions:
     - The applicant has successfully completed English composition at a US accredited college or university.
     - English is the applicant's native language.
Once documents have been submitted, they become the property of Temple University and cannot be returned to the student. Students who prefer to retain their original documents may submit notarized copies.

Documents should be in the student’s native language as well as a version translated into English.

The easiest way to apply to Temple University is to submit an online application. Students may also download the application and send it in by mail or use the Common Application. Please ensure that the students include all required documents when submitting their application. Completed applications and materials should be sent to the following address:

Office of International Admissions
1803 North Broad Street, Conwell Hall 714
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122-6096, USA

Q: Does Temple University accept the common application?

Temple University does accept the common application. Alternatively, applicants can use the Temple University application when applying.

Q: Is Conditional Admission granted for international students who do not meet the English language requirement?

Conditional Admission is available to talented students who meet the academic requirements for admission but need to improve their English language skills. Conditional Admission students will be enrolled in the Access Temple program for 1 or 2 semesters while earning college credit and developing language proficiency. The minimum entry criteria for Conditional Admission are TOEFL 65 iBT ®, IELTS 5.5, or PTE 46. Students who receive conditional admission have a guaranteed place at Temple University after completing Access Temple.

Q: Do students need to submit SAT or ACT results with their application?

All first-year applicants must submit the results of at least one of the following tests: SAT, ACT, TOEFL iBT ®, IELTS, or PTE. Transfer students should submit either the TOEFL iBT ®, IELTS, or PTE unless they meet one of the following exemptions: successful completion of English Composition at a US accredited college or university OR English is the applicant's native language.

Q: Can a student be considered for admission into Temple University without a TOEFL iBT ® or IELTS score?

All first-year applicants must submit the results of at least one of the following tests: SAT, ACT, TOEFL iBT ®, IELTS, or PTE. Transfer students should submit either the TOEFL iBT ®, IELTS, or PTE unless they meet one of the following exemptions: successful completion of
English Composition at a US accredited college or university OR English is the applicant's native language.

**Q: What is the minimum TOEFL iBT ® or IELTS score students need to be admitted?**

*The minimum test scores for admission* into Temple University are*:

- TOEFL: 79 iBT®
- IELTS: 6.0
- SAT: 540 in English & 530 in Mathematics
- PTE: 53

*The minimum test scores for conditional admission* into Temple University are as follows:

- TOEFL: 65-78 iBT®
- IELTS: 5.5
- PTE: 46-52

*Please note that certain majors, including those within the Fox School of Business, will require a higher level of proficiency:

- TOEFL: 84
- IELTS: 6.5
- PTE: 56

**Q: How long does it take to receive an admission decision?**

Once students have submitted all the materials necessary for their application, please allow up to two weeks to receive an admission decision. Students can check the status of their application by logging into the [TUportal website](#).

**Q: How can international students apply for a scholarship or financial aid?**

Temple University offer merit-based scholarships for international students and does not require an application for a scholarship. If they are selected for a scholarship, they will be notified at the time of acceptance. The University awards Merit scholarships to international students with strong academic records and high standardized test scores. Unfortunately need-based aid is not available.

**Q: How can a student schedule a tour of Temple University?**

If students are able to visit Philadelphia, they can contact us to arrange a tour. We would love to show them around campus. The [Temple University Welcome Center](#) handles all tours of Temple University Main Campus. They can also come to one of our [weekday information sessions](#) or [email us](#) to schedule a visit.
Q: Where can students find out information about tuition?

Information about tuition, billing, payments and loan services at Temple University can be found by visiting the Bursar’s Office website, or by calling 215-204-7269. Students can visit the Bursar’s Office Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Bursar’s Office is located at:

1803 North Broad St.
115 Carnell Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Q: How much money does a student’s sponsor need to show in order to receive an I-20 form?

In order to receive an I-20 form, the student’s sponsor will need to verify approximately $35,000. More information about financial documentation can be found here.

Q: Do students need to submit financial documents together with the application?

It is not necessary, but it’s a good idea for students to submit financial documents with their application so that we can produce their I-20 as quickly as possible. The necessary financial documents can be submitted through the students’ tuportal.temple.edu account.

Q: How can students apply for a student visa?

The best way for students to apply for a student visa is to contact a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their home country. They can always contact us for any further queries regarding their student visa.

Q: What is the deadline to apply for a student visa?

Temple University advises all students to submit their application for an I-20 at the same time they submit their application for admission into Temple University. Once the deposit and all required documents are submitted, an I-20 will be mailed to the student. For those transferring an I-20 from another school, I-20s will be issued after their previous school releases their SEVIS record to Temple University.

Q: As a transfer student, do students need to evaluate their transcripts with an evaluation agency? e.g. WES, AACRAO.

Temple University does not require students’ transcripts to be evaluated by an evaluation institution. Students are more than welcome to submit evaluations, but they still must submit their original transcripts. Temple University performs its own evaluations.

Q: Are transfer students required to submit course descriptions?
In most cases, Temple University will not require students to submit course descriptions during the application process; however, course descriptions are helpful in determining the number of transfer credits that Temple University will accept. In some cases, if a transcript is unclear, an admissions counselor may contact the student to request course descriptions and/or syllabi.

**Q: How long does it take to receive a transfer credit evaluation?**

Transfer credit evaluations are completed after a student has been accepted. Please allow two to three weeks from the time they receive their admission decision. If students have a specific question or concern about their credits, please contact us and we’ll put them in contact with a transfer counselor.

**After Acceptance into Temple University**

Just as Temple University was committed to assisting the students during the application process, we strive to make their transition as a student seamless. Below are several of our frequently asked questions.

**Q: How do students pay their deposit? Is there a deadline?**

Students can pay the deposit using TUPay, which is available under the welcome tab of the TU Portal or by returning the enrollment deposit form included in their acceptance package. If paying by mail, students are requested to send a personal or bank-issued check drawn upon a bank in the U.S. or a money order made payable to Temple University. Our deposit deadline is May 1.

**Q: Is housing available for international students?**

Temple University does offer on-campus housing accommodations to newly admitted students. A full listing and guide to University housing and residential life can be found online. The deadline for submitting their on-campus housing deposit is May 1.

**Q: How long does it take to receive I-20 form?**

Once students have paid their deposit and submitted all the required documents, their I-20 will be mailed to them. Students should allow up to two weeks for delivery from the time Temple University receives the required documents for mailing.

**Q: Is there a different process to transfer an I-20 to Temple University from another US institution?**

If students are currently studying in the U.S. in non-immigrant student status, they can request their current school to transfer their SEVIS record to Temple University. Please note that SEVIS
records (see below) cannot be transferred to Temple University until students have been officially accepted into the university. For more information, see the ISSS website.

Q: What is the SEVIS fee?

SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is a result of the 1996 Immigration Act mandated that a fee should be charged to all new F-1 and J-1 visa holders in order to fund the federal student and scholar database.

Q: Do students need to submit an immunization record?

There are only two mandatory Student Health requirements for certain groups of students. Students who will be living in the residence halls are required to have the meningitis vaccine. The vaccine can be declined, but the student has to complete an online certification form. The second mandatory requirement is for students who are citizens of countries with a high rate of tuberculosis, including China. These students are required to be screened for tuberculosis.

Students required to have the tuberculosis screening will receive information in early September and that testing must be done in Student Health. We do recommend other immunizations but they are only recommended, not required.

Q: Do students need health insurance?

For students’ safety, Temple University requires all international students in Non-immigrant Student (F1 or J1) status to maintain health insurance that meets the minimum standard as determined by the United States Department of State. In addition, the United States Department of State requires that all individuals in Exchange Visitor (J-1) status also meet minimum insurance requirement. Requirements and forms are available online.

Q: Can a student defer their offer of admission to Temple University?

If students are interested in deferring their admission for another semester, they must submit a new application for the semester in which they want to enroll. Students have to send official transcripts for any new academic work completed since their last application.

Q: Is there an international student orientation program?

New student orientation is mandatory for all international students and is very beneficial for a successful transition into Temple University. Don’t forget to let us know when students are planning to arrive by reserving their place for orientation.

Q: How early can students enter the U.S. before school starts?

The US government allows international students to enter the country as early as 30 days before their program start date indicated on their I-20/DS 2019.
Q: Can students arrange an airport pick-up when they arrive in Philadelphia?

Yes. Temple University offers pick-up services from the Philadelphia International Airport for students arriving for the Fall International Student Orientation Week. Students can reserve their pick-up when they register for orientation.

Q: Are there jobs available to international students on-campus?

Part-time student jobs list are listed on the Human Resources website. International student workers may work up to 20 hours per week during the academic semester. Students can find more employment opportunities online.

Q: Who should students with complicated immigration issue contact?

Temple University’s International Student and Scholars Services (ISSS) is the best place to contact for answers for any complicated immigration issues. For more information about immigration services in the United States, they can visit the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services website.

Q: Who should students experiencing technical problems with TUportal contact?

Temple University’s Computer Services department is available to assist all students with any technical problems they may encounter with TUportal. Students can submit a Computer Services Help Desk ticket online by visiting the TUhelp website or by calling (215) 204-8000. Walk-ins are welcome to go to the Help Desk office, which is located in The TECH Center in Room 106.

Q: Can students’ credentials be returned to them after they have been submitted to Temple University?

Temple University retains all credentials submitted to the university and cannot return original documents. If students prefer to retain their official documents, they may submit notarized copies of their originals.