

## International Student Admission

International students are individuals who require a non-immigrant visa. U.S. permanent residents (green card holders) are not considered international students. International students should apply using the online application system for the intended program of interest. Along with the application and fee, officially issued academic records or official transcripts and evidence of English language proficiency are required. The Office of International Admissions evaluates foreign academic credentials, yet some programs require that foreign official transcripts must be formally translated and evaluated by a credential evaluation service as outlined in their application requirements.

International applicants are subject to all graduate admission policies including admission deferment, English proficiency requirements for non-native speakers, submission of transcripts, standardized test scores, etc.

## Application Deadlines for International Applicants

Applicants must adhere to international admission and specific program deadlines to allow for the evaluation of academic and financial credentials. Additional timeline considerations include the student visa application process and require attendance at various orientation programs conducted during the week prior to the beginning of classes. Applicants should refer to [https://www.odu.edu/academics/programs\\_for\\_program\\_application\\_deadlines](https://www.odu.edu/academics/programs_for_program_application_deadlines). All international academic transcripts, translations and standardized test scores must be official, and sent directly from the institution or testing agency to Old Dominion University (CEEB code 005126). Officiating authorities include an institution's Registrar or Principle/Controller of Exams. Photocopies, notarized copies, or faxed copies of required official documents will not be accepted. ODU requires certified translations of academic transcripts and course descriptions by a licensed or professional translator to accompany academic documents not written in English. Translations of official documents completed by the student will not be accepted. Credentials submitted during the application process become the property of Old Dominion University and cannot be returned.

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### **Documentation Requirements for F-1 & J-1 Student Visa Holders**

Students seeking an F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant student visa must demonstrate to both Old Dominion University and the U.S. consulate the financial ability to cover all expenses related to study and living in the U.S. Funding requirements include tuition, fees, health insurance, living and personal expenses for the first year of study, in addition to a reasonable expectation of funding for the remaining years of study. Old Dominion University issues form I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) for the nine-month academic year with the submission of Old Dominion University's Financial Affidavit of Support, along with any corresponding original, bank issued financial statements or financial sponsorship guarantees.

Note that students are responsible for maintaining their F-1 or J-1 visa status throughout their enrollment at Old Dominion University. All F-1 and J-1 students must complete check-in with the VISA Office upon arrival at campus and prior to course registration. Please contact the VISA Office for further information. **English Proficiency Requirements for Non-Native Speakers of English**

Admission to the University is contingent upon successful completion of English language proficiency requirements. Non-native speakers of English can provide evidence of English language proficiency through a variety of options. Admission to the English Language Center (ELC) and subsequent enrollment in non-credit English language courses at the ELC does not imply admission to the University. Further information for non-native speakers of English is available from the Office of Admissions (permanent residents and naturalized citizens) and from the Office of International Admissions (all non-immigrants).

Graduate applicants who are non-native speakers of English must provide evidence of English language proficiency through fulfillment of one of the following:

1. Submission of one of the following English proficiency test scores: TOEFL iBT of 79 (550 paper based); IELTS overall band of 6.5; PTE score of 53; [Duolingo English](#)

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Test of 120; GRE Verbal Reasoning of 152, a GCSE or GCE "O" level pass in English; CPE grade of A, B, C.

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2. Possession of a bachelor's or master's degree equivalent from an accredited institution located in a country where English is the native language.

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3. Successful completion of two university- or college-level English courses at a accredited U.S. institution. Successful completion is defined as obtaining a minimum grade of C (2.00) in each of these courses. These courses must be equivalent to the University's English composition course(s) (see General Education Requirements, Lower-Division Written Communication section) and any other advanced composition or technical writing course. In addition, matriculated Old Dominion University / English Language Center students must receive prior approval from the Office of International Admissions to take English composition courses at another institution for the purpose of satisfying the English Proficiency Requirement.

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4. Successful completion of the Old Dominion University's English Language Center (ELC) Monarch English Transition Program. Successful completion is defined as satisfying the following two criteria: a.) Securing a minimum grade of B and demonstrating 85% attendance in each English Language Center class; and b.) Securing a minimum grade point average of 3.00 in academic courses taken during the Monarch English Transition Program.

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Graduate students who choose to satisfy English language proficiency requirements through the on-campus English Language Center will be placed according to the following criteria:

1. Students with a TOEFL iBT score below 61 (below 500 paper-based) are automatically eligible to enroll in the ELC's Intensive English Program (IEP). Conditional admission to most graduate programs is available.
2. Students with a TOEFL iBT score between 61 - 78 (500 - 550 paper-based) will be placed in the graduate level Monarch English Transition Program (formerly the ELC Bridge Program), which includes one graduate academic course and semi-intensive English Language Center course work.

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English Language Center - IEP students may enter the Monarch English Transition Program directly without TOEFL test scores after satisfying the following requirements: a.) Successful completion of level 5 in the IEP program with a 'B' grade or higher; and b.) Receive passing scores on level exit assessments. This option is only available to students that have progressively enrolled in the Intensive English Program.

Non-native speakers of English who anticipate holding a teaching assistantship position must provide evidence of oral English proficiency. They may take the Test of Spoken English (TSE), given by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at sites around the world, or the ETS SPEAK Test, administered by the English Language Center at Old Dominion University. Graduate teaching assistants who fail to pass either of these tests will not be eligible to assume an instructional position.

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