Applying International Graduate Students

An international applicant is one who is not a US citizen and does not hold a US Permanent Resident Visa ("green card" or "immigrant"). This definition also includes students who hold US visas, such as F-1 students, J-1 exchange visitors, H1-B, or any other non-immigrant classifications.

In addition to the materials that all applicants must submit, international applicants who are not native speakers of English need to provide evidence of English language proficiency. There are two issues:

- Demonstrating sufficient proficiency to be admitted to the university (Graduate School Memo #8).
- Demonstrating sufficient proficiency to be admitted with financial support as a Teaching Assistant (Graduate School Memo #15).

These memos (Graduate School Memo #8 and Memo #15) are summarized below, and you can find the full details by following the links.

Requirements for Admission to the University

If your native language is not English, to satisfy the English language proficiency requirements to be admitted to the university, you must have either

- a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from an institution in an English-speaking country (see Memo #8 for details) or
- a score of 92 or higher on the TOEFL-iBT

Applying for Financial Support

Almost all of our graduate students are supported through teaching assistantships. If your native language is not English, to qualify for financial support you need to satisfy the above and also have either

- a bachelor’s degree from an institution in an English-speaking country (see Memo #15 for details), or
- a score of at least 26 on the speaking section of the TOEFL-iBT

We do occasionally offer admission with financial support to applicants with scores of 23-25 on the speaking section of the TOEFL. If you are admitted with a score in that range, you will be required to take the VERSANT English test after you arrive. With a sufficiently high VERSANT score, you will be qualified to teach. Otherwise, you will be required to enroll in and pass English 105. In order for your financial support to be renewed for your second year, you will need to pass the spoken English requirement no later than the end of Winter Quarter of your first year in the program.

Applicants whose native language is not English will be more competitive if they submit an official TOEFL score, even if they have a degree from an English-speaking country.
If you have an overall score lower than 92 on the TOEFL, you will not be offered admission. If your speaking score is lower than 23, you will not be offered financial aid.

The Graduate School FAQ for International Students may also be helpful.

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