International Admission: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the typical application process?
   - Students should submit their application online at [http://www.usm.maine.edu/apply](http://www.usm.maine.edu/apply)
   - Or students may complete a paper application, which can be scanned and returned via e-mail. The online paper application may be found at the same link included above.

2. How do we send the application materials to the university?
   - Materials can be submitted electronically via e-mail.
   - Materials should be directed to Marjorie Jarry in Admissions [mjarry@maine.edu](mailto:mjarry@maine.edu) (with a cc to Rachel Morales [rachel.morales@maine.edu](mailto:rachel.morales@maine.edu) in Admissions and Kimberly Sinclair [ksinc@maine.edu](mailto:ksinc@maine.edu) in International Programs to ensure the most efficient and effective customer service).

3. If we need/want to courier items what is the appropriate address?
   - Hard copies of any materials should be sent to: USM Admissions, 37 College Avenue, Gorham, ME 04038 USA c/o Marjorie Jarry

4. Will USM accept 3-year Bachelor’s degrees?
   - USM will accept documentation from an appropriate US based NACES approved credential agency that confirms the 3 year degree is equivalent to a 4 year US bachelor's degree.

5. What is the application fee? Can it be waived?
   - The application fee is $40 and cannot be waived.
The best way to pay the $40 fee is to pay through the online application site. You will be prompted to enter your payment information. However, if you apply using a paper application a check or money order can be sent with your application and materials to:

Shared Processing Center
PO Box 412
Bangor, ME 04402-0412

International Applicants should use flywire when paying their application fee. If the online application does not take you to flywire, please use the following link: https://usm.maine.edu/international/international-education-payments

6. Is testing mandatory for all students?

- Yes. International applicants must submit TOEFL/IELTS scores.
- SAT scores are suggested but not required for undergraduate students.
- Graduate applicants must submit the required test scores per their major of choice (GRE, GMAT, MAT)

7. What are the admission requirements?

- **Undergraduate**
  - Completed application form
  - $40 application fee payable to the University of Southern Maine
  - Official secondary school transcripts, exam certificate, and college level transcripts including certified English translations
  - Official transcripts from all colleges attended, whether or not credit was earned, sent from the institution.
  - International College Transcript Evaluation (see #12)
  - Completed personal statement/essay
  - Declaration of Finances and back-up documents (bank statements, sponsor letters, etc.)
  - Optional: Official SAT or ACT scores (if you have completed more than 12 college credits or are age 20 or older at the time you submit your application these test scores are not required).
  - Official Test of English (TOEFL/IELTS)

- **Graduate Students**: Admission materials vary widely depending on the desired major. Please contact Sara Treible directly if you have a student applying for a graduate degree program. E-mail: sara.treible@maine.edu
8. What are the required IELTS/TOEFL scores?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Minimum TOEFL Score</th>
<th>Minimum IELTS Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive ESOL</td>
<td>45 iBT</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Pathway Programs</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5.5-6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Entry into Undergraduate Programs</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Entry into Graduate Programs*</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some graduate programs require slightly higher English scores. Be sure to check with Graduate Admissions (Lisa Sweet) to confirm the required minimum score.

9. Do you accept any other English scores besides the TOEFL/IELTS?
   - No, currently we only accept official TOEFL or IELTS scores.

10. Do you offer an Intensive English Language Program?
   - Yes, we offer a 6-week summer program, as well as semester long programs. To learn more visit usm.maine.edu/esol

11. Do you offer conditional admission?
   - No, USCIS has issued guidance which prohibits conditional admission for all US educational institutions.

12. Is academic credential mandatory?
   - Undergraduate: Yes, USM requires official college-level course by course transcript evaluations from an agency that is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluations Services (NACES) http://naces.org/members.html or from the Center for Educational Documentation, Inc. www.cedevaluations.com
   
   - Graduate: Yes, USM requires official college transcript evaluations from an agency that is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluations Services (NACES) http://naces.org/members.html. Graduate evaluations must be course by course evaluations and provide verification that the degree the applicant holds is equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree from the United States.
13. What undergraduate programs are the most popular?

- Business
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Biology
- Technology
- Tourism and Hospitality

However, we also have a significant number of arts and sciences majors including art, history, criminology, music and much more! A full list of majors can be found at https://usm.maine.edu/majors-minors-programs

14. What graduate programs are the most popular?

- Public Health
- Public Planning and Management
- Statistics
- Business
- Education (*students will need to be mindful that some Education majors are primarily online and not appropriate for international students*)

A full list of majors can be found at https://usm.maine.edu/majors-minors-programs

15. What are the admission deadlines for international students?

- The deadline for Fall/September is July 1st
- The deadline for Spring/January is November 15th

16. Will you consider a deadline extension?

- Unfortunately, deadline extensions are not possible to allow sufficient time for the preparation and mailing of I-20’s and to allow the student abroad enough time to obtain the visa.
17. Do you offer scholarships? Graduate assistantships?

- Student applying for *undergraduate admission* are automatically considered for International Merit Scholarships at the time of admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Scholarship</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USM Scholar</td>
<td>2.75-2.99</td>
<td>$8,000/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirigo Scholar</td>
<td>3.0-3.49</td>
<td>$10,000/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Scholar</td>
<td>3.5 +</td>
<td>$12,000/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Graduate students* may be considered for scholarships (amounts and availability vary by year) and they may apply for and be considered for graduate assistantships which vary by year as well. For more information students, should visit [http://usm.maine.edu/international/international-funding](http://usm.maine.edu/international/international-funding)

18. How much does it cost to attend USM?

- For detailed information on costs, please visit our "*documenting funding*” page. Individualized budgets are found at the bottom of the page. [http://usm.maine.edu/international/documenting-funding](http://usm.maine.edu/international/documenting-funding)

19. Does the University of Southern Maine have on-campus housing? Does USM offer home-stay options? Can you help me find an apartment off campus?

- USM does not have a home stay program. The University does have several housing options located on the Gorham campus. Most our international students prefer to live in Philippi or Upperclass Hall.
- USM does not have a housing office but does maintain an off campus housing online resource: [https://usm.maine.edu/commuters/offcampus](https://usm.maine.edu/commuters/offcampus)
- Students who prefer to live off campus must locate their own housing. If you need to make temporary arrangements at a local hotel prior to your arrival, the International Office can assist you with that task.
- On campus housing is recommended at least for the first year for all ESOL and Undergraduate degree candidates.