



gpibs

an interdisciplinary approach to graduate education

International Student Frequently Asked Questions

Admissions

Is there a certain way I have to submit my transcripts for the application? Yes, if you have attended a college or university outside of the United States, you must arrange to have all post-secondary records evaluated by a U.S. credential evaluation agency. The evaluation should assess on a course-by-course basis and convert the GPA to a 4.0 grading scale. Transcripts from foreign institutions (high school and post-secondary) must be sent directly to the evaluation agency using instructions given on their site. It is not necessary to send foreign transcripts to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. The transcript must be evaluated by [World Education Services \(WES\)](#) or [Educational Credential Evaluators \(ECE\)](#), and official evaluation should be sent to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from the agency evaluating the transcript.

Do I need a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination? The TOEFL is required for all persons born outside of the U.S. and includes naturalized U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international applicants. TOEFL is also required for U.S. native citizens born in U.S. territories where the official native language is not English. Applicants born abroad to parents with U.S. native citizenship are exempt from the English Proficiency requirement. A copy of the U.S. birth certificate or passport will be required for documentation. Applicants born in one of the [OUHSC Approved Native English Speaking Countries](#) whose application was received January 1, 2016 or later. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) **cannot** be accepted in lieu of the TOEFL examination. For additional information, please review the university [English Proficiency Requirement](#) guidelines.

After Program Acceptance

I have been accepted. Now what? Congratulations on being accepted into the GPiBS! First, Admissions and Records emails acceptance and international information letter. Office of International Student Services (ISS) sends an email to explain international student check-in and requests completion of the Confidential Financial Form in addition to supporting documentation for one year of tuition and fees for the specific program stated in United States equivalency. *(This step is required prior to the start of each new academic year.)* Your Designated School Official (DSO) in [International Student Services](#) will begin the process of preparing your Form I-20 and will send that to you. While waiting on your Form I-20, be sure your passport is valid and will not expire for at least six months. Once you receive your Form I-20, you will need to register (unless the international office has already completed this for you) on the [Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\)](#) and pay your SEVIS I-901 fee. Once this has been completed, you may apply at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate for your Visa. You **MUST** bring your Form I-20 to the Visa interview. Once you receive your Visa, be sure all of your information matches the information on your passport and that you have received the correct (i.e. F-1) Visa. Be sure to know your [responsibilities as an F-1 Visa student](#).

What forms will International Student Services need from me? You can find information on [Visa requirements](#) on the admissions page. Also please be sure to reach out to the [International Student Services](#) office of campus.

Are there any documents I should bring with me to the United States? Be sure to have your passport (valid at least 6 months in the future), your Form I-20, SEVIS fee receipt, evidence of financial support (bank statement, scholarship/assistantship letter), proof of enrollment, and your Visa. If you have a driver's license from your home country, it is a good idea to bring that as well. It is also a good idea to leave a copy of all of these documents with someone at home in case something gets misplaced.

What happens when I arrive in the United States? You may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before your program start date on the Form I-20 and no earlier. When you arrive, you will meet with a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CPB) officer. You must present them with your Form I-20, your Visa, and your passport. It is always a good idea to also have your University of Oklahoma acceptance letter, [financial ability documents](#) (Stipend letter, bank statements, etc.), and the name and phone number of your Designated School Official (DSO). These items should all be in your carry-on luggage as you will not be able to access any other luggage at this point. If/When you are admitted into the country, the customs officer will stamp your passport and will issue an electronic [Form I-94 Arrival and Departure Record](#). The Form I-94 includes information about when you were admitted, what status you must maintain (i.e. F-1) and how long you can stay in the United States. The CBP officer will inform you where to find your electronic Form I-94. You should verify that the "Admit Until" date on your Form I-94 and admissions stamp on your passport lists "D/S" (that means, Duration of Status) and not a specific date.

Where is the closest airport to campus? For information on Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma please visit their [website](#).

What if I don't have someone to pick me up from the airport? There are some [transportation options](#) listed on the airport website. Please notify the [GPiBS office](#) and/or the [International Student Services](#) office of your need for transportation as well as your flight schedule and expected time of landing to see if we might be able to help.

General Resource List

How can I find housing? Temporary housing is available at the [Medical Inn](#). For Discount Rate: State that you were referred by HSC Student Affairs – Tanya Mustin. Here are some resources for long-term housing: [University Village Apartments](#), [College Student Apartments](#), [A Better Life OKC](#), [Apartments.com](#), [ApartmentGuide.Com](#), [Zillow.com](#), and many others. Also, reaching out to the [International Student Organization](#) would be a good resource in trying to locate housing options near campus. ***Please keep in mind most housing options will not have furniture so be sure to ask if it is furnished/unfurnished and what appliances will be in your home.***

Where can I find food/groceries? The following grocery stores are within 2 miles of campus: Sunshine Grocery Cash Saver 1149 N Martin Luther King Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73117; [Homeland](#) 1108 NW 18th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73106; Indian Grocery Store 1901 E Reno Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73117; [Family Dollar](#) 2036 NE 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; and [Market at Commonplace](#) 1325 N Walker Ave Ste 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73103. There are also grocery delivery services available through [Wal-Mart](#), [Amazon](#), [Shipt](#), and [Instacart](#).

How do I connect with other international students on campus? Please reach out to our office and we will connect you with the International Student Organization (ISO) as soon as you are ready! They can help provide information on getting to campus, what to expect, and other resources you may need that you don't even know you need.

How do I get my social security card? What documents will I need? First check to make sure you are active in [SEVIS](#) for at least 2 days AND you have been in the United States at least 10 days. You will need to fill out an [Application for a Social Security Card](#). Be sure to provide original documents to prove your age, identity, and work-authorized immigrations status. Bring all of the following documents: Passport, Form I-94, Form I-20, employment/assistantship letter from the university to the Social Security Administration office.

Can I get a driver's license? What documents do I need? You are eligible to apply for and test for a driver's license. The [Department of Public Safety](#) provides details [on items you will need to bring](#). If you have additional questions you can contact them at (405) 425-2424 or contact a nearby [Driver License Exam site](#).

How do I find a bank near campus? There are many banks in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, but the following banks have a location within 1 mile of campus: [BancFirst](#) (on-campus location available), [MidFirst Bank](#), [First Fidelity](#), [IBC Bank](#), and [Chase Bank](#).

Can I get a cell phone without a contract or a credit history? There are many cell phone options available without a contract or credit check. The following are only a few of the options available. [Cricket](#), [Hello Mobile](#), [AT&T](#), [Boost](#), [Ting](#), [Tello](#), [Pure Talk](#), and [Mint](#).

Will I need to file taxes on the income I receive while I am in the U.S.? Yes, you will be required to file taxes with the [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS). The payroll department has some information regarding [foreign national taxation](#). The IRS links provided will have more detailed information.