



## *Graduate School Guide for International Students*

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### **ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS.**

If you are an international student considering graduate school in the U.S., it is important to first consider if the bachelor's degree you earned outside the U.S. will be accepted by the U.S. graduate school to which you are applying. If it is unclear whether or not your degree will be accepted, it is recommended that you send a short letter to the U.S. graduate school admissions office to ask them to review your credentials. Be sure to state that you will abide by the admissions committee's decision and that you are willing to provide any additional information they may need to make the most informed decision possible.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.**

There are two main English language proficiency exams, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Depending on the institution being applied to, international students sometimes have a choice as to which test they take. Regardless, international students should not take either test more than 3 times. It is also important to remember that institutions rarely budge on admitting students who do not meet the minimum TOEFL or IELTS score.

**INTERNATIONAL FINANCES.** International students face unique challenges in regards to finances. Be sure to plan ahead even if you have already received scholarships and/or grants for your graduate studies. There are many additional ways for international students to fund their studies.

### **Employment at the University**

- Many international students, because of U.S. tax and immigration laws, are unable to hold part or full time jobs while in the U.S. They can, however, hold jobs at their institution. Students should look at their university's job posting website for more specific information.

### **Scholarships**

- In addition to U.S. scholarships, international students are also eligible for scholarships from their home country. Be sure to look into this type of support from your home country's local, regional, and national sources of funding. Be cognizant of the fact that some scholarships may require a student to return to their home country for some time after they receive their degree.

### **Loans**

- Finally, it may be possible for international students to obtain a loan from a U.S. institution to fund their education. It is important to know that some loans may require the student to obtain a U.S. citizen cosigner.