**International Admission Information**

**The Deadline for International Applications is December 15**. International applicants are reviewed at the same time as all applications and thus for full consideration, we recommend that you apply early.

**General Information for International Applicants**

* Acceptance notifications are sent via email with a first class letter to follow.
* Log into the application site periodically to check your information status & the comment box. We will notify you and schedule a conference call if the admissions committee selects you for an interview.
* TOEFL score: International applicants must take an English-language proficiency examination unless the student has received a degree from a U.S. college or university. WVU will accept scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The minimum accepted TOEFL score is 600 for the paper-based exam, 250 for the computer-based exam and 100 for the internet-based exam. The minimum IELTS score is 6.5. Applicants are urged to arrange for one of these exams well in advance of the desired enrollment period.
* The WVU Institution Code for the TOEFL examination and the GRE is R5904.

**Proof of Required Academic Credentials:**

To expedite the review of your application, we will accept unofficial or personal copies of your transcripts. Please upload them on the application website in the Supplemental Materials section. Be sure to upload transcripts from all institutions you have attended. Do not email them to us separately.

Should you be admitted to the program, official transcripts and documents will be required to complete the admission’s process and issue your I20 form. Arrange to have official transcripts and documents sent from all institutions that you have attended.

The required documents include:

* Official academic record(s) showing course titles, dates taken, and grades received
* Diploma(s) or Certificate(s) showing degree awarded

These documents must be in the original language of issue. Official English translation of these credentials is required in addition to the original language documents.

Applicants who have attended U.S. institutions must request that official transcripts be sent to WVU directly from that institution. Because of delays in receiving official documents, you may upload copies of your transcripts in the supplemental materials section of the application. These will be used for review of the application but the official copies must be received before formal admittance to the University can occur.

**Proof of Financial Support for Visa Approval:**

Before West Virginia University can issue the document necessary to apply for a student visa (Form I-20 or Form IAP-66), the student must provide proof that he or she has the adequate financial resources to provide for his or her expenses incurred while studying at WVU. Certification of financial support can take one of or a combination of the following forms:

* If the student or student's parent will fund the student's studies at WVU, the student must provide an official bank statement showing the availability of the required amount. Bank statements can be no older than 6 months.
* If the student will be supported by a private sponsor, the sponsor must provide a letter declaring intent of sponsorship AND an official bank statement showing the availability of the required amount. Bank statements can be no older than 6 months.
* If the student will be sponsored by a government agency or a public or private institution, the agency or institution must provide official certification that the appropriate costs will be covered. Sponsorship statements can be no older than 6 months.

West Virginia University must have the original or a certified copy of the original certification of financial support in order to issue the form I-20 or IAP-66. Since the student may need to provide the same certification of financial support when applying for a student visa, it is recommended that the student obtain duplicate certifications or provide WVU with certified copies. Photocopies that are not certified as true copies of the original will not be considered as acceptable proof of financial support.

**NOTE REGARDING FINANCIAL AID:**

All accepted international students to the Biomedical Sciences PhD program receive financial support in the form of a stipend, tuition coverage & WVU student health insurance unless a scholarship is provided by their home country. Students pursuing the Master of Science degrees in Biomedical Sciences or Health Sciences are not provided financial support by the University.

Students who will be receiving financial aid from West Virginia University (assistantship, fellowship, etc.) must realize that if the amount of aid is not at least as much as the indicated estimated expenses, the student will be responsible for showing proof of support for the remainder. It is the responsibility of the student to submit to the Office of Admissions and Records all documentation of financial support, including financial award letters or notice of assistantship.

**NOTICE:**

Due to increased attention to national security, international applicants are experiencing longer waiting periods for visa approval than in the past. Please consult the International Admissions Office if you have questions.

After arriving in the United States, it can take 2-6 weeks to obtain a social security card. Because of this delay, you should be prepared to support yourself financially for at least 6 weeks after beginning your graduate work.