



INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

Penn State is a coeducational, land-grant university that has provided innovative education since 1855. As a comprehensive teaching and learning university, Penn State offers high-quality education in more than 160 majors and hundreds of options within those majors. Faculty and programs at Penn State have been recognized nationally and internationally for the quality of undergraduate teaching as well as research achievements. The University has more than 5,400 full-time faculty system-wide. Scholars, scientists, artists, and researchers are dedicated teachers as well. Students working with faculty members gain practical experience and have opportunities to be involved in new discoveries.

Over 80,000 students are enrolled at 24 locations throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Among large public universities, Penn State is unique. It combines the nearly 41,000-student setting of the University Park campus with 19 other academically and administratively integrated undergraduate campuses. Other campuses range in size from nearly 700 to over 3,800 students and offer the first two years of most of the over 160 Penn State baccalaureate degree programs. Where students complete their baccalaureate degree depends on the area of study and the type of campus preferred. However, most students choose to finish their program of study at the University Park campus. Detailed information about Penn State academic programs, campus locations, activities, and support services can be accessed through the Web site at www.psu.edu.

The Pennsylvania climate is typical of a temperate zone with marked seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation. Within each season the weather may be quite changeable. Fall (mid-September through November) days are often warm and sunny; nights are cool; temperatures are from 60°F (15° C) in the daytime to 32°F (0° C) at night. Winter (December through March) is marked by continuous cold weather with an occasional mild day; temperatures range from about 32°F to below 0°F (0° to -20°C); snow, sometimes deep, is possible anytime. Spring (April through May) brings increasingly warm, sunny days and cool nights; temperatures sometimes reach 60° to 80° F (50° to 27°C). Summer (June to mid-September) temperatures average from 70° to 90°F (25° to 35°C), with medium to occasionally high humidity.

While international students may consider any Penn State campus, six campuses offer additional support services and reserved housing for international students. If you are interested in one of the other Penn State campus locations, please refer to our Web site or contact the Admissions Office.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PARK

Most international students enroll at the University Park campus. The approximately 3,500 international students at Penn State University Park, including 891 who are pursuing undergraduate (first) degrees, represent 130 countries. The campus comprises 5,089 acres with approximately 675 buildings. In addition to over 160 world-class academic programs, there are a multitude of opportunities to enhance your formal education – participating in campus traditions, meeting students from different backgrounds, interacting with faculty who are leading researchers in their fields, enjoying high-quality entertainment, exploring the outdoors. There are over 700 student clubs and organizations including an international student council, 51 nationality organizations, music and the performing arts, publications, religious groups, sports and numerous special-interest groups.

Located in the heart of the mid-Atlantic region, in the geographic center of Pennsylvania, Penn State University Park adjoins the municipality of State College, a quintessential university town with a population of about 39,000. The campus and the community offer a variety of cultural programs for people of all ages. The beautiful wooded mountains surrounding the community have many scenic recreational areas, lakes, and streams, hiking trails, as well as flourishing farmlands. While State College offers the comfort and safety of a small town atmosphere, there is easy highway and airline access to major metropolitan areas. New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., are within a three- to four-hour drive from State College. More information about Penn State University Park and the town of State College is at the Web site: www.psu.edu.

PENN STATE ALTOONA

Penn State Altoona is nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, only 45 minutes by car from the University Park campus. With an enrollment of approximately 3,800 students it is the second largest campus in the Penn State system. Currently 12 countries are represented in the student body. The campus provides a learning environment that reaches out to the individual in academic as well as social terms. The first two years of most academic programs offered by the University can be started at Altoona. In addition, the following baccalaureate degree programs can be completed at Penn State Altoona: Biology, Business; Communications; Criminal Justice; Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology; Elementary and Kindergarten Education; English; Environmental Studies; History; Human Development & Family Studies; Integrative Arts; Letters, Arts & Sciences; Mathematics; Nursing, Psychology; and Science.

The beautifully landscaped 123-acre campus is located in the northern part of Altoona, a city with a population of over 52,000. Penn State Altoona is known for a small, personalized atmosphere with high caliber faculty and excellent advising. Each of the residence hall rooms is equipped with two computer network jacks, plus a computer lab is available in each residence hall. Facilities include a state-of-the-art computer center, an advanced technology and engineering building, an all-faith chapel, a library, an athletic complex, and a performing arts center. For more information please visit the Web site at www.aa.psu.edu or by e-mail aaadmit@psu.edu.

PENN STATE BERKS

Penn State Berks is located in scenic Berks County. The Berks campus serves more than 2,000 students and offers an idyllic setting for living and learning, while featuring programs for both resident and commuting students. The first two years of most academic programs offered by the University can be started at the Berks campus. In addition, baccalaureate degree programs in American Studies, Applied Psychology, Business, Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology, Elementary and Kindergarten Education, Global Studies, Information Sciences & Technology, Kinesiology, Professional Writing, and Science can be completed at Penn State Berks.

Located just outside the city of Reading, population 70,380, the Berks campus is nestled among rolling hills with tree lined pathways, and is conveniently located near shopping centers, restaurants, theatres, and entertainment.

More than forty special-interest clubs and organizations offer something for everyone. Penn State Berks offers intramural, club, and varsity sports. Additional support services are provided by the Office of Academic Advising, the Learning Center, Career Center, and the International Student Advisor. Additional information can be obtained at the Web site www.bk.psu.edu or by e-mail at admissionsbk@psu.edu.

PENN STATE ERIE, The Behrend College

Penn State Erie offers a broad range of academic programs that allow you to complete a four-year Penn State degree in a small college setting. Many buildings from the original Behrend family estate remain, providing a unique blend with modern academic structures. Residence halls, apartment complexes, a computer center, library/academic complex, a School of Engineering and Engineering Technology complex, and other research labs successfully blend tradition and progress. Intramural sports, NCAA Division III competition for men and women, and more than eighty clubs and organizations offer athletic, social, and leadership opportunities. Theatre, art exhibits, concerts, and symphony and ballet performances are only minutes away in Erie.

Located outside Erie, the third largest city in Pennsylvania with a population of 105,270, the campus is two hours from Pittsburgh and ninety minutes from Cleveland and Buffalo. Residence halls are provided for nearly 1,700 students and privately owned housing is available near campus. Nearly 3,700 students benefit from the opportunities and prestige of a major research university set in the atmosphere of a small college. In addition to the first two years of nearly all of Penn State's more than 160 majors, Penn State Erie offers 31 baccalaureate degree programs. More information is available at the Web site www.pserie.psu.edu or by e-mail at behrend.admissions@psu.edu.

PENN STATE HARRISBURG

Penn State Harrisburg is an undergraduate college and graduate school of Penn State. The Harrisburg campus enrolls more than 3,700 students and offers two associate, 28 baccalaureate, 20 master's, and two doctoral degrees as well as certificate and certification programs. The first two years of study leading to more than 160 baccalaureate majors can be completed at Penn State Harrisburg.

Penn State Harrisburg is located on a suburban campus in Middletown, eight miles east of Harrisburg, the capital of the state of Pennsylvania. The greater Harrisburg area has a population of more than 300,000 with a very diverse community. The campus is easily accessible via major interstate routes and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Harrisburg International Airport is within one mile of the campus, public transportation serves the campus, and rail service affords convenient access from locations throughout the nation.

There is on-campus housing for international students and an off-campus housing referral service for students who choose not to live on campus.

Additional information is available at www.hbg.psu.edu or by email hbgadmit@psu.edu.

PENN STATE MCKEESPORT

At Penn State McKeesport, dynamic academic programs and award-winning faculty serve a diverse student body of 800. Innovative classes, a low student-to-faculty ratio, multimedia classrooms and personalized academic support services broaden learning experiences. The first two years of most academic programs offered by the University can be started at Penn State McKeesport. In addition, bachelor's degree programs in Business, Communications, Information Sciences and Technology, and Applied Psychology can be completed at Penn State McKeesport.

Penn State McKeesport's 52-acre campus is just 15 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. It lies between the residential community of White Oak and a 250-acre park, with athletic fields, tennis courts, walking trails, and gardens. Penn State McKeesport is located just fifteen miles from Pittsburgh, the second largest city in Pennsylvania with a population of 330,000, and home to more than 140,000 college students and 29 colleges and universities. The campus is within driving distance of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. The Pittsburgh International Airport and the bus and train stations are easily accessible. Both urban and suburban experiences are within the reach of Penn State McKeesport students. Penn State McKeesport students take advantage of entertainment, cultural, and sporting events in the city of Pittsburgh, the second largest city in Pennsylvania, and also enjoy hiking, biking, and skiing in the nearby Laurel Highlands region. More information is available at www.mk.psu.edu or by e-mail at psumk@psu.edu.

GENERAL ADMISSION INFORMATION

Decisions for admission to Penn State's various programs and locations typically are made on the basis of the applicant's requested academic program, space availability, and the quality of the applicant's academic credentials.

First-Year applicants are those who will have completed secondary school or its equivalent by the time they enter Penn State. Admission decisions are based on the academic record from secondary school and/or results of leaving examinations and if the applicant's native language is English the results of the Scholastic Assessment Test I (SAT I).

Advanced Standing (Transfer) applicants are those who will have completed more than one semester of enrollment at a post-secondary institution — university, college, institute, etc. Admission decisions are based on the academic record from the post-secondary institution(s).

In most cases, first-year and advanced standing applicants are admitted to a Penn State academic college, not a major. Students will request a baccalaureate degree major within the college sometime before their third year. At that time, students must meet entrance-to-major requirements.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

In addition to academic admissibility, Penn State requires that all applicants whose native language is not English provide proof of English language proficiency. A score of 80 on the internet based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 213 on the computer-based TOEFL, or 550 on the pencil and paper TOEFL satisfies the requirement. Score reports must be official and cannot be more than two years old. A critical reading score of 530 or higher on the SAT or grades of A, B, or C in English Language on the General Certificate of Secondary Education or the General Certificate of Education are also acceptable. Also, a grade of 6.5 or better on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination will satisfy the language requirement. Applicants who have been in a U. S. college or university and have completed two years of full-time academic course work and have a grade of C (2.0) or higher in a standard English composition course will also meet the language proficiency requirement.

CREDIT ACQUISITION

Course work completed at a regionally accredited college or university in the U.S. will be evaluated for transfer credit if passed with a grade equivalent to A, B, or C (2.0) and useful in a student's program of study at Penn State. Credits may also be earned from institutions outside the United States if the institution is a recognized part of the system of higher education of another country and offers programs of study equivalent to baccalaureate degree programs at Penn State.

Courses studied at a higher level in some systems of secondary education can be reviewed for transfer credit equivalent to the introductory sequence in that subject – 6 to 8 credits – as follows: Advanced levels (grade of A, B, C, or D); Abitur (grades 1, 2, 3 where 1 is high, 7-15 where 15 is high); French Baccalaureat (subjects graded 10 or higher in which the coefficient is 4 or more); International Baccalaureate (subjects examined at the Higher Level with grades 5, 6, or 7); College Board’s Advanced Placement Examination – AP (awards vary); and College Board’s College Level Examinations - CLEP (awards vary).

Courses will be evaluated as either equivalent to an exact Penn State course or as general credits within the area of study. Transferable credits may be used to fulfill degree requirements as well as general education requirements and are applied to a student’s program of study at the discretion of the academic college of enrollment.

HOUSING

On-campus housing is guaranteed for first-year students enrolling at Penn State University Park. Advanced standing students and all students enrolling at campuses other than the University Park campus will be considered for on-campus housing on a space-available basis.

ADDITIONAL PENN STATE INFORMATION

More detailed information on Penn State’s programs appears in the *Undergraduate Degree Programs Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is available on the internet at www.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook. The home page (www.psu.edu) also offers links to academic colleges and student services.

ADMISSIONS APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The preferred way to apply is via the web at www.psu.edu/admissions. But paper applications are acceptable. Applications for admission should be sent to the Undergraduate Admissions Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Shields Building, University Park, PA 16802-1294 USA. Applicants who submit applications without all documents will not be considered for admission.

APPLICANT NAME AND E-MAIL

Because materials for applicants are filed alphabetically under the family name as indicated on the application, it is important that all forms, records, and correspondence consistently use the same name (family and given) and spelling. The name on the application and the academic documents should agree with the name on the passport.

We ask that a student provide an e-mail address that can be used. Be sure that we have a current e-mail address at all times and that Penn State is indicated as an eligible sender to the address.

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Review carefully the enclosed information regarding evidence of financial ability and complete the Application for Visa Document form. Send it and the appropriate documentation to us along with the application for admission.

There is no financial aid available to international undergraduate students. Please note: If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you are encouraged to apply for student aid by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The following Web site has information on how to apply: www.psu.edu/studentaid.

APPLICATION DEADLINE DATES

Admissions applications and all official documents must be received in the Undergraduate Admissions Office by the following dates:

Summer session (June) or **fall** semester admission (late August) - **February 1**

Spring semester admission (January) - **October 1**

Complete applications received after the recommended filing dates will be considered on a space-available basis.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ADDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Architecture and Landscape Architecture	The deadline for first-year applications is November 30; for transfer students, December 31. A portfolio is required for transfer applicants. These programs begin only in the fall semester and only at University Park.
Golf Management option	Requires verified golf handicap of 12 and begins only at University Park.
Art, Music, and Theatre	A portfolio audition/interview is required for admission consideration and placement. The Music program begins only at University Park.
Nursing	Begins only in the fall semester.

ADMISSION DECISION AND PROCESS

The Undergraduate Admissions Office (UAO) will review an application for admission once all official academic documents are received. A decision will be made and notification sent to the applicant. For questions on the admission process and decision, please contact the UAO by phone, fax, or e-mail.

If a favorable decision has been made, your information will be forwarded to International Student Services (ISS) where the financial information will be reviewed. The appropriate visa documents (I-20 or DS-2019) will be sent when a favorable financial review is completed by ISS. If more information is required, you will be contacted. The address for ISS is The Pennsylvania State University, 410 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802 USA, phone: (814) 865-6348, FAX: (814) 865-6480, e-mail: international@ip.psu.edu.

DISABILITIES

Students having physical disabilities that will tend to limit activity or that will require accommodation on the part of the University should notify the Office for Disability Services, The Pennsylvania State University, 105 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802 USA. The phone number is (814) 863-1807.

Penn State is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristic not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. Penn State prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at Penn State. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; tel. (814) 865-4700; TTY (814) 863-1150.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

