

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions from international students. If you cannot find your answer here, feel free to email Gradintl@hofstra.edu or call 516-463-4723.

What do you mean when you say “undergraduate,” “graduate,” “bachelor’s,” “master’s,” “fall,” and “spring?”

In the United States, students are in high school until grade 12. They then begin college/university to earn their undergraduate degree, which is also known as a bachelor’s degree. After undergraduate study, students go to graduate school, which is also known as a master’s or doctoral degree. Students may begin classes at Hofstra in the fall semester which begins in early September, or the spring semester which begins in late January or early February.

What documents do I need to apply?

Consult the Graduate Bulletin at <http://bulletin.hofstra.edu/index.php?catoid=72> for the specific admission requirements and supplemental documents for your program.

What does “Rolling Admissions” mean?

Many programs at Hofstra University feature rolling admissions, meaning there is no specific deadline to apply by; applications are reviewed as they are received. If a program has a specific deadline, it will be listed in our Graduate Bulletin.

How does the application process work?

Our graduate application process is completed entirely online, available at www.hofstra.edu/gradapply. All documents, including letters of recommendation, test score reports, and transcripts, are uploaded to the online application.

Once the online application allows you to submit, your application is sent to the program director of the program which you are applying to for review. After a decision has been made, you will receive an email notification followed by an official letter of notification from the Dean of Graduate Admission.

How long does it take for an admissions decision to be made?

Each department operates on their own schedule, so decision times will vary depending on your program.

How does the I-20 and visa application process work?

Once you have been accepted, you will receive an email explaining specifically what documents you need to submit. Students must typically submit an I-20 application, copy of their passport, and financial documentation although more documents may be necessary.

Is the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) required?

The TOEFL or IELTS are required if your native language is not English. However, the TOEFL requirements will be waived if you can prove that you earned your bachelor's degree in a university/college in the United States or the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin

Islands, Canada (except Quebec/Montreal), Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Greenland, Guyana, Jamaica, Liberia, New Zealand, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, South Africa, Tobago, Trinidad, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, and US Virgin Islands. The TOEFL is not required for students from Puerto Rico.

What is the minimum TOEFL/IELTS score?

The minimum TOEFL score for the university is 80, and the minimum IELTS score for the university is 6.5. Some programs may have higher requirements.

When should I send my documents?

You can send your documents – official proof of degree, official test scores, I-20 application documents – whenever you want. However, none of these are required until you have been accepted.

How do I submit my transcripts?

Hofstra University requires an unofficial transcript from each school you have attended submitted digitally as part of the application process. Typically, the transcripts that are submitted to us digitally are scans of print transcripts. Once you have been accepted into a program, you will be required to send an official, sealed transcript with proof of degree conferral indicated to our office at the following mailing address:

Hofstra University
Office of Graduate Admissions
105 Memorial Hall
Hempstead, NY 11549

What programs require a tuition deposit?

Psychology, Speech-Language Pathology and any program in the Frank G. Zarb School of Business require non-refundable tuition deposits. Consult the Graduate Bulletin for your program's requirements.

How do letters of recommendation work for the online application?

Hofstra's online application provides for the electronic submission of letters of reference. You must input the names and contact information for each provider in order to submit your application. Once you have added this information, the system will contact your recommender via e-mail with instructions on how to complete a recommendation for Hofstra University.

Please note that our office does *not* accept paper letters of recommendation.

How do I find out more information about the GRE and where I can take it?

You should visit www.ets.org.

How do I find out more information about the GMAT and where I can take it?

You should visit www.mba.com.

What is Hofstra's school code for the standardized tests?

When you take a standardized test, code 2295 will send us your scores.

How many credits are considered full time?

International students must take a minimum of 9 credits per semester in order to be considered full-time.

How much does Hofstra cost?

Tuition at Hofstra for the 2014/2015 academic year is \$1,145 per credit for non-business classes and \$1,170 per credit for business classes. You will have to pay between \$21,000 and \$22,000 if you take the minimum 9 credits each semester.

How does Financial Aid work?

Financial aid is not available to international students. You may be eligible for a partial scholarship through your department; all students are considered for scholarships when they apply.

What is Hofstra like?

Hofstra is a diverse campus in a suburban neighborhood. We have a graduate student dorm, a shuttle bus that can take students to nearby shopping, and we are close to trains and international airports. Some students live in houses near Hofstra, and others live on campus. We have about 727 international graduate students out of a total of about 3,101 graduate students.