

International Student Admissions Guide

Thank you for your interest in Houston Christian University! The HCU student body boasts an international population representing over 60 countries, and we are thrilled that you are considering joining the Husky family. Please review this guide and submit all the necessary documents to complete your application.

International applicants seeking admission should apply and submit all necessary documents to International Admissions before the following deadlines:

Fall: June 1st

Spring: November 1st

Summer: March 1st

The following documents are required for international applicants in order to be considered for admission (each is explained in more detail on following pages):

Step 1: Complete Houston Christian University's Application for Admission online at www.hc.edu/apply

- Select "International" for citizenship and fill in the appropriate immigration details.

Step 2: Request that your academic transcripts are sent to HCU's International Admissions

- **Any university education from outside the U.S. must first be sent to a foreign transcript evaluation agency.**

Step 3: Show proof of sufficient English skills

- TOEFL, IELTS, SAT and/or ACT scores, OR
- Completion of two (2) classes of collegiate English taken in the United States OR
- Certificate of completion from an approved partner English Language Program of HCU OR
- A bachelor's degree or equivalent at an accredited institution of higher education whose instruction is conducted in English.

Step 4: Submit copies of your passport and international documents

- Passport must be valid for at least 6 months.
- If you are currently in the United States and/or hold a valid visa for the USA, please submit a copy of your visa and/or USCIS Notice of Action AND I-94.
- *Students who are participating in one of HCU's online degree programs from overseas and do not plan to enter the USA as part of their program will be exempt from this.*

Step 5: For F1 Applicants ONLY – Show proof of financial support for your studies.

- Complete HCU's Financial Affidavit here: <https://apply.hbu.edu/register/intlfinancialaffidavit> AND
- Submit a copy of an official bank statement or letter, showing the full amount of funding for one academic year.
- If you hold a valid F1 visa, you need: a copy of your most recent I-20 AND a Transfer-In Form completed by your current international student advisor.

You may send documents to goglobal@hc.edu for undergraduate applications or gradadmissions@hc.edu for graduate applications.

Demonstration of Sufficient English Language Skills

All international students **must** demonstrate English proficiency in order to be considered for admission to Houston Christian University. This is to ensure you will be equipped to keep up with the academic rigor of your coursework. You must provide scores for one of the following options for proof of sufficient English skills.

Option 1:

Successful completion of one or more of the following tests.

Test	Minimum Score	Institutional Code
TOEFL: Internet-Based	80	6282
IELTS	6.5 on Academic Module	N/A
SAT	1010 Composite AND 480 EBRW	6282
ACT	21 Composite AND 20 English	4101
PTE Academic	53	N/A
DuoLingo	105	N/A
CLT	68	N/A
PTE Academic	53	N/A

Option 2:

Successful completion of two (2) semesters of non-remedial freshman English from a regionally-accredited U.S. institution of higher education. English courses below the equivalent of Composition I and Composition II will not be considered. Students must receive a letter grade of 'C' or better.

Option 3:

Completion of an English Language Program from any of these programs:

- Language Consultants International - www.englishlci.edu or 832-571-1007
- The Learning Institute of Texas - www.litexas.edu or 281-988-9522
- BEI (Level 7) – www.bei.edu or 713-789-4555

Option 4:

Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education whose instruction is conducted in English.

Option 5:

Graduation from U.S. high school or a regionally accredited high school (such as SACS) whose instruction is conducted in English.

Option 6:

Students applying from the following English-speaking countries may be exempt from the English Proficiency requirement. To check if your country is in the list: <https://hc.edu/admissions/international/english-proficiency/>

International Documents For Students Seeking to Apply for the F1 Student Visa from Abroad

Students who do not currently hold a valid visa for the United States will need to apply for an F1 student visa prior to beginning their studies here in the USA. * Your application to Houston Christian University will not be considered without the necessary international documents listed below.

Please submit the following international documents:

- **Passport** – copy of passport information page, including your photo, passport number and expiration date. It must be valid for another six (6) months minimum. If your passport is near expiration, please renew it as soon as possible.
- **HCU Financial Affidavit*** <https://apply.hbu.edu/register/intlfinancialaffidavit> AND
- **3 months of bank statements or an official bank letter from financial sponsor's bank**

*All students seeking the F1 student visa **MUST** show proof of financial support, per Federal Immigration Regulations. Complete HCU's Financial Affidavit and attach an official statement or letter from your bank showing the total amount for one academic year. This is **NOT** considered a payment to the University and is only used for the purposes of issuing I-20 documentation. You will need to set up a payment plan with the Financial Aid Office after you have been admitted.

You may send documents to: goglobal@hc.edu for undergraduate or gradadmissions@hc.edu for graduate admissions.

Once your application is complete and all of your supplemental items have been processed, we will make a decision on your application. If your application to HCU is successful, you will receive an Acceptance Packet by email, which will include your official offer letter, an I-20 form, and instructions on how to apply for the F1 student visa.

Visa processing times vary from country to country. We encourage admitted students to begin their application process for their visa as soon as they receive their I-20.

**Students who are participating in one of HCU's online degree programs from overseas and do not plan to enter the USA as part of their program will be exempt from this.*

International Documents For Students Currently Holding a Valid Visa for the United States

Your application to Houston Christian University will not be considered without the necessary international documents listed below. Once your application is complete and all of your supplemental items have been processed, we will make a decision on your application. You will receive a decision letter along with the next steps to take regarding your immigration status.

Students who currently hold a valid visa* for the United States will also need to submit the following international documents:

- **Passport** – copy of passport information page, including your photo, passport number and expiration date. It must be valid for another six (6) months minimum. If your passport is near expiration, please renew it as soon as possible.
- **Copy of Visa or USCIS Notice of Action AND**
- **Copy of I-94**

Current F1 and F2 visa holders must also submit the following in addition to copy of passport, visa and I-94:

- **Copy of most recent I-20 form**
- **Transfer In Form****
- **HCU Financial Affidavit*** AND**
- **Official statement or letter from your bank**

You may send documents to: goglobal@hc.edu for undergraduate or gradadmissions@hc.edu for graduate admissions.

*Not all visa types are legally eligible to study at HCU. Depending on your visa type, you may be asked to apply for a Change of Status to the F1 student visa **prior** to beginning classes. Additional information may be requested at that time.

** Your immigration records should **ONLY** be transferred in SEVIS **after** you have received a letter of admission from HCU and you have completed your current semester at your current school.

*** All students seeking the F1 student visa **MUST** show proof of financial support, as per Federal Immigration Regulations. Fill out HCU's Financial Affidavit and attach an official statement or letter from your bank showing the total amount for one academic year. This is **NOT** considered a payment to the University and is only used for the purposes of issuing I-20 documentation. You will need to set up a payment plan with the Financial Aid Office after you have been admitted.

Transcript Evaluations

HCU requires that all education outside the United States be evaluated by an outside evaluation service. We are not able to use original international transcripts to make an admissions decision.

You must contact the agency directly and submit your documents to them. The evaluation agency will send an official evaluation of your transcripts directly to HCU including a GPA, or Grade Point Average. Undergraduate students with collegiate credits and Graduate students who wish to petition for transfer credits must request a "detailed, course-by-course" evaluation of any University-level work.

Evaluation agencies approved by Houston Christian University are:

Evaluation Agency	Website	Phone Number
SDR Educational Consultants	http://sdreducational.org/	(713) 460-5344
SpanTran Educational Services	https://www.spantran.com/	(713) 266-8805
Foreign Credential Services of America	http://foreigncredentials.org/	(512) 459-8428
WES World Education Services	http://www.wes.org/	(212) 966-6311

Important information for Transfer Students: Please note that University-level classes taken outside the United States *may* not be credited towards your degree program. HCU will review your coursework and determine if it is applied as specific or elective credit. You may petition to have your credits counted if they are less than ten (10) years old; however, you will be asked to provide a course description and syllabus. This is done on a course-by-course basis, and there is no guarantee it will be approved by the appropriate academic department. Classes taken at a remedial level or graded as Pass/Fail will not be accepted.