

International Students Checklist

We're glad you're interested in UTHealth School of Public Health. Texas is a diverse and welcoming place to live, study and work. As an international student, parts of your application will require extra steps. To make this process as easy as possible, we've consolidated all the information specific to international applications here.

VISAS

It's important to note that all visa applications and processes, including I-20 forms, are managed by the UTHealth Office of International Affairs <https://www.uth.edu/international-affairs/index.htm>. Once you are accepted into a program, they will reach out to you.

- F-1 student sponsorship is only available for fall admissions
- We do accept master's-level applicants for spring admissions if the applicant already resides in the US and has a visa that allows them to study for the full duration of the spring semester

TOEFL/IELTS

International applications must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Information and application booklets may be obtained by contacting the Educational Testing Service directly at <http://www.ets.org/toefl/> or <https://www.ielts.org/en-us>. Your test scores are valid for two years from the test date

For TOEFL, we require:

- A minimum score of 100 (for internet-based testing)
- Test scores to be sent directly to SOPHAS (use institution code 5688, no department code is needed)

For IELTS, we require:

- A minimum score of 7.5
- Test scores be sent directly to the school using the following address:

ATTN: Elvis Parada

RE: IELTS Score

UTHealth School of Public Health

1200 Pressler Street, RAS E-227

Houston, TX 77030

EXCEPTIONS TO TOEFL/IELTS

You may be exempt from taking the TOEFL/IELTS if:

- You are a permanent resident or citizen of the United States
- You have already earned a bachelor's degree or doctoral degree from a United States institution
- Your country of origin is: Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda or the United Kingdom

To request a TOEFL/IELTS waiver, please email SPHAdmissionsTestWaiver@uth.tmc.edu

TRANSCRIPTS

For your application, transcripts from a non-US institution will need to be verified by World Education Services (WES) using a course-by-course evaluation and then submitted directly to SOPHAS.

- SOPHAS will only accept transcript evaluations from World Education Services (WES)
- WES will only accept an official transcript for review, meaning that they must receive it directly from your school or the transcript should arrive in an envelope that has been sealed and stamped by an official at your school*
- Please do not send original international transcripts directly to SOPHAS, as they will not be accepted
- If you have your 11-digit SOPHAS ID, you may use the special WES online application for SOPHAS applicants

Following your acceptance to UTHealth School of Public Health, you will need to have your official transcript sent directly from your previous institution to the UTHealth Office of the Registrar to be eligible for graduation after the completion of your degree.

***IF YOUR SCHOOL WILL NOT SEND AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**

It is always best to have official transcripts both for WES to review for your application and to the Office of the Registrar once you are admitted. However, if your school will not send an official transcript, there are still steps you can take to complete your application:

- Write a letter to your school requesting that an official transcript, official mark sheets, and an official diploma be sent to UTHealth Office of the Registrar
<https://www.uth.edu/registrar/index.htm>
- Make a copy of the letter
- Send the original letter by certified or registered U.S. mail to your school, and keep the registered or certified mail receipt
- Send the copy of the letter **and** the certified or registered mail receipt to the UTHealth Office of the Registrar, along with any transcript-related documents provided by your school

If all these items are received by the application deadline, your application will be considered complete for review.

PAYING FOR YOUR EDUCATION

International students are eligible for many of our scholarships, including the Outstanding New Student Scholarship, which requires prospective students to complete their applications by December 1 for the following fall to be considered. For more information about scholarships, please visit the Scholarships page on our website.

International students are also eligible to work as graduate assistants, teaching assistants, or graduate research assistants. All jobs with the UTHealth School of Public Health are posted through Handshake, which is available for current students to access only after they have accepted admission to the School and have received their UTHealth email address. For more information about student employment, please visit the Paying For Your Education page on our website.