



International Student Applicants

PIHMA welcomes international applicants from all over the world. PIHMA defines an international applicant as someone who is a citizen or permanent resident of a country other than the United States who wishes to pursue a degree at PIHMA.

PIHMA is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students and complies with all Federal guidelines and directives of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Special application and admission procedures are required of all international F-1 students. Permanent residents, refugees, and aliens in other non-immigrant statuses should use the regular application and admission procedure.

International applicants follow the same application and admissions procedures as required of U.S. citizens in addition to meeting the international application requirements. It is recommended that international applicants begin the admissions process six months to one year prior to the desired priority application date. Tuition and fees for international students are the same as for U.S. citizens and residents. International students are not eligible for U.S. Federal Financial Aid.

An I-20 will be issued only after the applicant's file is complete, the applicant is accepted into the program, and tuition deposit is received by PIHMA. A non-refundable I-20 fee of \$100 will be withheld from the deposit if the applicant does not attend PIHMA.

Non-immigrant F-1 students transferring from another approved school within the U.S. must also provide a copy of their current I-20, passport name page, visa, and I-94 card along with their application and school transfer information form.

General Information For International F-1 Students

Upon arrival at PIHMA, international students must provide PIHMA with a copy of their stamped I-20 and I-94 card, visa, and passport name page. The Department of Homeland Security requires that all international students enroll in a full-time course of study, defined as a minimum of 12 units per semester, attend classes



regularly, and make satisfactory progress towards completion of the degree or diploma objective.

International students who apply from outside the United States may be admitted each semester. A student is accepted only for the term indicated on the I-20 and the letter of acceptance and must register for classes during that semester. If admission for a different semester is desired, the applicant must request a change of their starting date in writing and receive a new I-20.

Once enrolled, international students must report any of the following activities to PIHMA immediately: change of legal name, address, or program of study, request for program extension, intent to travel outside the U.S., and/or desire to transfer to another institution. There is currently no dormitory housing available at PIHMA.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The international applicant's name must appear on the application and supplemental documents as it appears on the applicant's passport. International applicants applying for an F-1 student visa through PIHMA must submit the following documents along with the completed application.

1. A photocopy of the first page of the passport
2. Transcript Evaluation
 - a. If you have completed college or university level education in another country, you must have your transcripts reviewed by a credential evaluation agency that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services Inc. Transcripts need to be evaluated on a course-by-course basis. The evaluation, containing the total number of earned credits and cumulative GPA, should be sent directly to PIHMA by the evaluating agency. Two agencies we recommend are the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) www.aacrao.org or World Educational Services (WES) www.wes.org.
3. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
 - a. International applicants must demonstrate English language competency by achieving the following TOEFL or IELTS exam scores. TOEFL Internet-Based Testing Score of 80 overall required or IELTS Exam Overall: Speaking: 26 (preferred) Listening: 22 (preferred) Level 6.5 required for IELTS International applicants who have completed a two-year (60 semester credit or 90 quarter credit) baccalaureate level education at an institution in the United States accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or at an equivalent English language institution in another country, (United Kingdom, Australia, Canada



(excluding Quebec), New Zealand or Ireland may request to have the TOEFL/IELTS requirement waived.

4. Financial Statement

- a. International applicants must provide a financial statement, certified by a financial institution, verifying the availability of at least \$55,000 in U.S. dollars. This amount should cover your education and living expenses for one academic year. If you need the university to issue an F-2 I-20 for your dependents, you will need to calculate an additional US \$6,000 for each dependent. Additionally, you may want to consider having additional funds for off-campus months and miscellaneous expenses. We recommend having approximately \$7,000 for this purpose. If your tuition or living expenses are going to be partially or fully paid by a sponsor, the financial statement must be signed by your sponsor stating they assume financial responsibility for the designated amount.

5. Health Insurance

- a. International students should provide proof of health insurance coverage prior to student registration. Due to the high costs of medical insurance in the United States it may be advantageous to purchase health insurance coverage in your home country. We recommend you purchase a healthcare policy for yourself and any dependents, with a minimum coverage of US\$250,000 per incident, and a deductible of no more than US\$500 per person, per year. The coverage should include repatriation of remains in the amount of US \$7,500 and US \$10,000 coverage for medical evacuation. Prior to your arrival into the United States we recommend you obtain medical records for you and your dependents from your primary physician. These should include a medical history describing previous illnesses, surgeries, and records of all immunizations, including those received in childhood. In addition, since dental costs in the United States tend to be considerably higher than most other countries, you are advised to have any necessary dental work completed in your home country prior to your arrival in the U.S.

