

## International Student Additional Requirements

As an international student, parts of your application will require extra steps. To make this process as easy as possible, we have consolidated all the information specific to international applicants here.

### VISAS

All visa applications and processes, including I-20 forms, are managed by the UTHealth Houston [Office of International Affairs](#). Once you are accepted into a program, they will reach out to you.

- Degree-seeking students applying via SOPHAS requiring F-1 student sponsorship is only available for fall admission at the Houston campus.
- We accept master's-level applicants for spring admission 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.

### TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts from non-US institutions 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 WES. Please do not send original international transcripts directly to SOPHAS, as they will not be accepted. 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 a sealed envelope that has been stamped by an official at your school.

Following your acceptance to UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, you will need to have official transcripts sent directly from your previous institution to the UTHealth Houston Office of the Registrar.

### ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMS

All applicants must show proof of English language proficiency. International applicants must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Information about these exams may be obtained by contacting the Educational Testing Service directly at <https://www.ets.org/toefl.html> or <https://ielts.org/>. Your test scores are valid for **two years** from the test date.

For TOEFL, we require:

- A minimum score of 95 for internet-based testing.
- Self-report your TOEFL scores in the **Standardized Tests** section of the application and include your Test Registration ID. Additionally, enter your date of birth in the **Biographic Information** section. These must be listed for your official scores to be matched to your application.
- Provide code **#5688** to ETS and request that your scores be released.
- After ETS processing, scores are sent to SOPHAS in batches and then posted to applications weekly. You can view scores attached to your application in the Standardized Tests section of the **Check Status** tab.

For IELTS, we require:

- A minimum score of 7.0
- Self-report your IELTS scores in the Standardized Tests section of the application and include your TRF number. This must be listed for your official scores to be matched to your application.

- Based on your test type, go to [IELTS](#) and request your scores be released to SOPHAS. Check with IELTS about their turnaround and processing times.
  - o **IELTS In-person Test:** contact your [IELTS test center](#) to send your scores to SOPHAS. You can request scores up to two years from your test date. Additionally, you can send your scores to up to five organizations for free. Contact your test center for more details.
  - o **IELTS Online Test:** use the IELTS test taker portal to submit your scores. You can send your scores to as many as organizations as you wish, with no additional fee.
- After IELTS processing, scores are sent to SOPHAS in batches and then posted to applications daily. You can view scores attached to your application in the Standardized Tests section of the **Check Status** tab.

**EXCEPTIONS TO ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMS**

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

- If you are a Permanent Resident or Citizen of the United States
- If you earned a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from a United States institution.
- If the degree reviewed by WES indicates, the mode of instruction was in English and the length of instruction was 3 or more years.
- If you earned a degree from an English-speaking country. Graduation with a diploma or degree (attended for at least 3 years or a standard period of attendance as required by the country; Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral degree) from an accredited school from a recognized English-speaking country as listed below:

Antigua	Ghana	St. Helena
Australia	Grenada	St. Kitts & Nevis
Bahamas	Guyana	St. Vincent
Barbados	Ireland	Trinidad & Tobago
Bermuda	Jamaica	Turks & Caicos Island
British Virgin Islands	Kenya	Uganda
Canada	Liberia	United Kingdom (UK)
Cayman Islands	New Zealand	US Virgin Islands
Falkland Islands	Nigeria	Zambia
Gambia	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe

If you meet the above criteria or have questions regarding waivers, please email [SPHAdmissionsTestWaiver@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:SPHAdmissionsTestWaiver@uth.tmc.edu) with your waiver request and include supplemental documentation for consideration.