

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

## University Procedures for International Students

### Undergraduate Admission

International students are subject to the same admissions standards as all other NMSU students, but some additional requirements apply. This section addresses those additional requirements. Visit <https://issn.nmsu.edu/new-students/undergraduate-admissions/step-1.html> for more information.

Applications for admission that include the transfer of credits earned at a non-U.S. university must include a professional Foreign Credential Evaluation (FCE) report from a member institution of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) for every transcript from a foreign secondary school and/or post-secondary institution attended. The ISSS office highly recommends that applicants consider using The Evaluation Company (TEC) for their FCE. NMSU has worked with TEC to provide applicants with a clear understanding of which evaluation is needed. TEC provides an applicant portal to track and access evaluations. TEC is a long-standing member of NACES. For more information, please visit <https://spanside.my.salesforce-sites.com/SpantranApplication?Id=945ec224-f79e-4171-8888-8c452728aafb>

### Undergraduate – New

- GPA requirement of 2.75 or higher
- Minimum TOEFL of 68 iBT, or 6.0 IELTS, or Duolingo 95 or higher
- Secondary school equivalency with a minimum 2.75 GPA or ACT composite score of 21 or SAT score of 1060 or Ranked in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class or a GED cumulative score of 480 or HiSET cumulative score of 45.

### Undergraduate – Transfer

- 2.00 or better GPA on transfer college or university credits.
- Students transferring from a two-year college, community college, or university in the United States who have earned a minimum of 30 acceptable semester credits (45 acceptable quarter credits) with a GPA of 2.0 or better (acceptable credit means classes that require a high proficiency in both written and oral English).

### English Language Proficiency Requirements

For undergraduate admission to the university, NMSU requires a score of 68 (internet-based) or better on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a score of 6.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or a score of 95 on the Duolingo English Test (DET) for international students for both non-degree and degree seeking. International students attending another US institution and having a valid I-20 may enroll as a non-degree seeking student and take course(s) at the undergraduate level.

Students who are citizens from one of the following countries will be exempt from providing a TOEFL, IELTS, or DET score for admission

purposes. NMSU requires all admitted international students to take the English Language Placement Test (ELPT) for placement purposes.

Anguilla, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Caicos Islands, Cameroon (Anglophone), Canada (except Quebec), Cayman Islands, Christmas Islands, Cook Island, Dominica, England, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grand Cayman Islands, Grenada, Grenada and the Grenadines, Guernsey, Guyana, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati Islands, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St. Christopher, St. Helena, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Tristan da Cunha Island, Turks & Caicos Islands, Uganda, Virgin Islands, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe

For students not from the countries listed above, a waiver of the TOEFL/IELTS/DET requirement may be considered for:

1. Students completing high school in the United States who have attended the high school for at least two full years.
2. Students transferring from an institutional accredited two-year college, community college, or university in the United States who have earned a minimum of 24 semester credits or 36 quarter credits (all classes having English as the language of instruction) with a GPA of 2.0.
3. The university reserves the right to require any prospective international student to meet the TOEFL, IELTS or DET requirement.

All application material, transcripts, national examination scores, transcripts from colleges or universities (with an English translation), and test scores (including the TOEFL or IELTS) should be sent directly to the NMSU Undergraduate Admissions at [admissions@nmsu.edu](mailto:admissions@nmsu.edu). Please note that transcripts, test scores, and foreign credential evaluations sent directly from an applicant/student to NMSU will be considered unofficial. To be considered official, transcripts, test scores and foreign credential evaluations must come directly from the school, testing agency, or evaluation agency. All documents should be emailed to [admissions@nmsu.edu](mailto:admissions@nmsu.edu).

### Admission Restrictions

Admissions to summer terms is not available to new undergraduate international students due to the limited number of face-to-face course offerings.

### Admission Deadlines

For full consideration for undergraduate admission, applicants are subject to the following deadlines:

July 1 (application initiated)	Fall Semester
July 15th (all documents submitted)	Fall Semester
October 1st* (Study Abroad)	Spring Semester
November 15th (application initiated)	Spring Semester

December 1st (all documents submitted)      Spring Semester

## Post Admission

### Immigration Document Requirement (I-20) to be submitted to ISSS office

1. Valid passport for six months or more (from the date of entry into USA).
2. International student must submit a current financial support document to the ISSS office. This document must show that:
  - The financial support document/ bank statement - Availability of financial document/bank statement must be within the last 3 months on the letter head of the bank and reflect the account holders name, account number, type of bank account and the available balance. The bank statement must be from an account where the funds are readily available to use to support the student's education and other related expenses such as tuition expenses, living expenses, insurance, other expenses for at least one academic year.
3. Complete the Affidavit of Support Form provided by ISSS office.
4. All official communication and I-20 will be sent to the students NMSU email address

### Post Arrival

#### 1. New Student Orientation

Orientation for all new Undergraduate first-time and transfer students is mandatory. At NMSU's New Student Orientation programs, students will attend information sessions, learn about campus resources and college life, meet with an academic advisor, and register for courses.

More information about New Student Orientation is available at <https://awo.nmsu.edu/>.

#### 2. English Language Placement Test

Placement in writing classes for international students is determined by the results of the English Language Placement Test (ELPT).

Based on the results of the ELPT, the student is either assigned to ENGL 1105M (a bridge course designed to ensure success in ENGL 1110M) or is allowed to enroll directly in ENGL 1110M (for multilingual students). Please note that these classes are only available on NMSU's Las Cruces Campus. International students excused from ENGL 1105M will be required to take ENGL 1110M. The student may then be required to complete one or more regular English classes as required for a particular degree. Completing basic English courses at other U.S. institutions does not automatically satisfy the ENGL 1110M requirement. Equivalencies for ENGL 1105M and equivalencies for ENGL 1110M or ENGL 1110G are determined by the University Student Records Office, who may refer exceptional cases to the English Department in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In cases of dramatic discrepancies between TOEFL/ IELTS scores and the ELPT, the ELPT results shall determine placement.

#### 3. Mandatory SEVIS check-in

SEVIS check-in is another orientation for all new and transfer international students admitted for the semester and it

is federally mandatory to attend. This is a federal requirement for students to comply. Mandatory SEVIS check-in MUST be completed by all new and transfer students ideally one day before classes begin depending on the semester they are admitted to. The location of the Sevis check-in will be communicated by the ISSS office.

#### 4. Canvas Course & Document Upload Portal

The Canvas Course & Document Upload Portal is where a student uploads their documents such as passport, F-1 visa, I-94, along with US address, phone number and emergency contact information. Students will receive an email invitation to the Canvas course 2 weeks before the semester begins. Students can access this Canvas course using their NMSU email address. All official communication will be sent to the students NMSU email address.

\*\*\* All the 4 items listed above must be completed by New and Transfer International students.

#### Graduate International Students

For information about admission process, eligibility and deadlines please visit the Graduate School section of this catalog.

<https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/future-students/international-graduate-students-processing-steps.html>

#### Post Admission of graduate student:

### Immigration Document Requirement (I-20) to be submitted to ISSS office

1. Passport valid for six months or more.
2. International student must submit a current financial support document/ Assistantship offer to ISSS office. This document must show that:
  - If submitting financial support document - The Bank statement with transactions must be on the letter head within the last 3 months of the bank and reflect the account holder's name, account number, date and the available balance. The bank statement must be from an account where the funds are readily available to use to support the student's education and other related expenses such as tuition expenses, living expenses, insurance, other expenses for at least one academic year.
  - Assistantship offer- The offer must be on the department letterhead reflecting the students name, Aggie #, the semester/s student will be offered assistantship, amount in funding the student will receive and other benefits, if any.
3. Complete the Affidavit of Support Form provided by ISSS office.
4. All official communication and I-20 will be sent to the students NMSU email address.

### Post Arrival

#### 1. Mandatory SEVIS check-in

SEVIS check-in is orientation for all new and transfer international students admitted for the semester and attendance is federally mandated. This is a federal requirement for students

to comply. Mandatory SEVIS check-in MUST be completed by all new and transfer students at least one day before classes begin depending on the semester they are admitted to. The location of the SEVIS check-in will be communicated by the ISSS office.

## **2. Canvas Course & Document Upload Portal**

The Canvas Course & Document Upload Portal is where student upload their documents such as passport, F-1 visa, I-94, US address, phone number and emergency contact information. Students will receive an email invitation to the course 2 weeks before the semester begins. Students can access this Canvas course using their respective NMSU email address.

\*\*\* All the 2 items listed above must be completed by New and Transfer International students.

## **3. Enrolling in Classes:**

- Fall and Spring semester: Full-time status for fall and spring semesters is defined as 9 or more credits for graduate students (only three online credits can apply to the full-time requirement).
- Summer semester: Students admitted to summer semester must enroll in full course load. Full-time status for summer is defined according to NMSU requirements.
- Students graduating in summer semester must register for at least one in-person class.

## **Employment:**

- On-campus employment: Students on valid I-20's and F-1 visas are eligible to work on campus while studying in the U.S. Students may only work on campus while they maintain status. A valid I-20, F-1 visa and I-94 document serves as proof of work eligibility for on-campus employment.
- Off-campus employment: International students may not work off campus without prior authorization from ISSS office.