

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

International students can benefit IUB in numerous ways (e.g., improving university academic environment, dissemination of knowledge, improving the quality of IUB graduates, university image and ranking, etc.). This policy provides overall guidelines regarding international students at IUB.

2. DEFINITIONS

International student refers to a student who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Students with dual citizenship are not considered as international students.

International student policy refers to the rules applicable to the international applicants and students of IUB with the status of international students.

3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all prospective and enrolled international students of IUB.

The provisions of this policy are implemented by the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office, the Office of the Controller of Examinations, and the Schools, as appropriate, and coordinated by the International Programs and Relations in the Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor.

4. ADMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Anyone having passport of a country that has diplomatic relations with Bangladesh can apply for admission at IUB. However, they need to meet admission requirements set below.

4.1 Minimum Admission Criteria

The following minimum criteria apply to all international applicants seeking admission at IUB:

4.1.1 Minimum Undergraduate Admission Requirements

- Twelve years of education from recognized institutions with a CGPA 3.5 on a 5.0 point scale or equivalent.

- SAT score of 960 (Scores directly sent to IUB from testing authorities).
- IELTS 5.0 or TOEFL 500 (paper based test) or 61 (Internet-based test). (Scores directly sent to IUB from testing authorities).
- Proof of financial solvency of the applicants or their sponsors (e.g., bank statements, salary certificates etc.).

4.1.2 Minimum Graduate Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor's degree from a recognized university with a CGPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale or equivalent.
- Two recommendation letters, one from a professor and another one from a professional or employer who are not student's relatives.
- GRE score of 285 or GMAT score of 500. (Scores directly send to IUB from testing authorities).
- IELTS 5.0 or TOEFL 500 (paper based test) or 61 (Internet-based test). (Scores directly sent to IUB from testing authorities).
- Proof of financial solvency of the applicants or their sponsor (e.g., bank statements, salary certificates etc.).

In addition to the above minimum criteria, each school may set additional criteria or set higher test score requirements.

However, if international applicants appear for the IUB admission test and get an acceptable score, the above standardized test score requirements may be waived. Furthermore, applicants coming from English speaking countries shall be exempt from the English Language test requirements and applicants from non-English speaking countries who attended English medium education may be exempt from English Language test requirements based on their results.

4.2 Application for Financial Aid

If the applicants want to apply for financial aid, they need to submit a separate financial aid application.

4.3 Admission Process

The admission process of international applicants shall follow the below procedure:

4.3.1 Admission Application

International applicants shall apply for admission online. They shall:

- Submit a complete online application along with a payment of nonrefundable application fee.
- Submit all the official certificates and transcripts of institutions they attended previously (SSC & HSC-level equivalent degrees for undergraduate admission and bachelor's degree for graduate admission). For admission decision, soft copies are acceptable; however, the applicants must submit all the original certificates and transcripts when they register for admission.
- Make arrangement for test scores to be sent by the testing authorities (ETS, GMAC, and College Board) to IUB directly, using IUB institution code.
- Submit the names of individuals who will write their recommendations and arrange for the letters to be sent to IUB by the referees directly.

In case of submission of any fraudulent document, admission will be cancelled and appropriate law enforcement authorities will be informed.

4.3.2 Review of Admission Applications and Admission Decisions

The complete applications will be reviewed by the admission committees. University Admission Committee will review the undergraduate applications and School Admission Committees will review graduate applications. A Skype interview may be arranged if the committee deems necessary.

‘School Admission Committee’ refers to an admission committee formed at the school level which consists of Dean (chairman of the committee) and Heads of all the departments within a particular school (members of the committee).

A committee may exempt applicants with extraordinary past academic achievements from any of the test requirements.

The applicants will be informed about the decision of the admission committee. The accepted applicants will be issued an official admission offer letter signed by the Vice Chancellor. In case of approved financial aid, the decision shall also be included in the letter. (See Tuition, Fees and Scholarships below)

4.3.3 Acceptance of Admission Offer

After the international applicants receive the admission offer, they have to accept it within two weeks. They may apply for deferral on acceptable grounds but for no longer than two trimesters.

4.3.4 Application for visa

Based on the official admission offer letter, the applicants shall apply for a student visa. If the applicants are currently in Bangladesh on a student visa issued for another institution they shall obtain a new visa for studying at IUB. If the applicants are currently in the country on a work or spouse visa, they may enroll at IUB in accordance with the provisions of the law.

4.3.5 Registration

International applicants who were issued official admission offer letter may only register for courses at IUB after they have submitted the original documents specified under admission requirements and a copy of a valid visa. Registrar's office shall verify the authenticity of the visa, certificates, and transcripts. After obtaining such verification, the Registrar's office will prepare a report on the status of the applicants. After that form is signed by the Vice Chancellor, the applicants will be registered.

5. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS, COURSES AND CLASS SCHEDULES

The requirements for graduating, the curricula, the courses and class schedules, attendance policy etc., are same for international students as for all other students, as published by the University.

6. TUITION, FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition, fees and scholarships for international students are same as those for domestic students, except for the application fee which shall be set differently for international and domestic students.

Financial aid applications will be considered by an appropriate Admission Committee and the recommendation will be forwarded to Student Assistance Committee. This committee will decide whether financial aid shall be approved and in what amount based on merit and need of the applicants using the same criteria as for domestic students. For those international students who do not take the IUB admission test, the Student Assistance Committee will establish equivalency criteria.

7. SENDING CERTIFICATES AND TRANSCRIPTS ABROAD

If an international student leaves the country after graduation and is not able to collect the original certificate and transcript, these documents may be sent to their designated address in the student's country, providing the student pays for the international courier fees.

8. MEDICAL INSURANCE

The applicants need to show the proof of medical health insurance in Bangladesh with sufficient coverage for sickness, accidents, critical diseases, hospitalization etc., when they register for admission. IUB may facilitate the process of insuring with prominent insurance companies in Bangladesh.