



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. You said I must submit “official transcripts.” My university only issues one original transcript and I do not wish to mail it to you. What should I do?

The College of Graduate Studies will accept as “official” a transcript photocopy that has been attested by your university or college. The attestation should contain an original stamp and an original signature from an official at the institution. We will also accept as “official” transcript copies which have been attested by an advisor at the Education USA office affiliated with the U.S. Embassy in your country. For information about the Education USA office nearest to you, please visit <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers/>. Please do *not* send your only copy of your transcript to CMU. This official document policy also applies to your diploma (proof that your degree has been awarded). If your transcript indicates that your degree was awarded, along with the name of the degree and the award date, you are not required to submit a separate document such as a diploma. Please note that *we will not accept transcript or diploma photocopies* which have been attested by any person other than those mentioned earlier, including a public notary.

2. You asked for a signed, completed Financial Support Form. Can’t I just have my sponsor send you his own letter or affidavit of support?

You must submit CMU’s International Financial Support Form. The form is page four of our international graduate application, or it can be downloaded from the Graduate Studies website (<http://www.grad.cmich.edu>) by choosing the link on the first screen for “Applications & Forms,” and then scrolling down the alphabetical list of “Student Forms” on second screen to the name of the form. You should be certain to write in an “Available Amount” in the proper section (A, B, C, or D) of item #1 that is at least the minimum amount of support required. If your funding is coming from a sponsor, you must complete the Affidavit of Support section of the form and have your sponsor sign in the appropriate place.

3. Can you e-mail me when my application materials arrive so that I know they reached you safely?

Unfortunately, due to the large number of applications we receive, it isn’t possible for us to send students e-mails when their application materials arrive. Within 3-4 weeks after your initial application materials reach us, you should receive an acknowledgment letter by mail. The letter will contain a checklist on which the required materials we have received will be marked. *It is your responsibility to be certain any unmarked items are sent to the Graduate Studies office.* You will not receive any further communication from us asking you to submit outstanding materials.

4. If I am admitted, how long will my admission be valid?

For most of CMU’s graduate programs, student admissions are valid for one year. That means, for example, that a student admitted for Fall 2004 could begin his or her studies in that semester, in Spring 2005 (January 2005), or Fall 2005. Any delay past that would mean that reapplication (and payment of a second application fee) is necessary. Some of CMU’s graduate programs admit students only once a year and have firm application

deadlines (usually in January or February). In the case of those programs, admissions cannot be deferred and it would be necessary for you to reapply before the next deadline. Readmission cannot not be guaranteed.

5. Is a TOEFL score required for admission?

Proof of English proficiency is required for admission to any of CMU's graduate programs. Although most international applicants meet that requirement by having an official TOEFL score report sent to us, there are other acceptable methods of proof. You can meet the requirement by submitting IELTS scores or MELAB scores, or by having completed an entire course of study (bachelor's degree, master's degree, etc.) at an institution where the language of instruction is English. Test score requirements are:

	<u>Regular Admission</u>	<u>Conditional Admission</u>
TOEFL	79 ibt (550 pbt, 213 cbt)	61-78 (500-547, 173-210)
IELTS	6.5	6.0 or 5.5
MELAB	80	

6. Is a GRE score required?

The College of Graduate Studies does not require GRE scores. The decision regarding standardized test scores has been left to each department; some departments have chosen to require the GRE and some have not. (The MBA program requires a GMAT score instead.) Some departments do require test scores if you are applying for a graduate assistantship. You should be certain to check with your department to ask about standardized test scores and other departmental application/admission requirements.

7. Can international graduate students get financial aid?

Graduate assistantships (GA's) are the main form of financial aid available to international graduate students. Many, but not all, departments offer GA's. For more information, please see the "Financial Assistance Options" sheet in the back of this folder.

8. How do I apply for a graduate assistantship?

CMU's graduate assistantships are administered at the departmental level. You should contact your department for information about their availability and the application process.

9. If my department does not award me an assistantship, can I reapply for one after I arrive on campus?

If you do not receive a graduate assistantship prior to your arrival, of course you always have the option to reapply. However, as disappointing as it may sound, your chances of receiving one at that time are very slim. The importance of this cannot be overstressed. *If you do not receive an assistantship prior to your arrival at CMU, you should plan to fund your first year of study without any financial assistance from the university.*

10. Can I begin my studies in the summer?

Because the U.S. government requires all international students to enroll full-time, beginning your studies during the summer is not usually an option for most students. Very few of CMU's programs offer enough graduate courses in the summer to allow a student to enroll full-time.

11. *I have been communicating with my department. Can I send my application materials directly there?*

At CMU, all graduate applications must come to the College of Graduate Studies first. The Graduate Studies staff determines whether all materials have been received and if those materials meet our requirements. In addition, we verify that the institutions attended are recognized by the government of the country in which they are located, check to be certain the degree earned is equivalent to a four-year U.S. bachelor's degree, and convert the applicant's grades to the U.S. 4.0 scale in order to determine if he or she has met our minimum grade point average requirement. When we are satisfied that our requirements have been met, the applicant's materials are sent to the department to be evaluated. The department then makes an admission recommendation to the College of Graduate Studies. *Some departments require application materials in addition to those required by the College of Graduate Studies; you should check with your department to be certain you have submitted everything necessary.*

12. *My friend told me Michigan can be very cold in the winter. Is that true?*

Michigan does have four very distinct seasons, each with a different weather pattern. Winters can be cold, with temperatures ranging from 5 degrees C to -20 degrees C, and an average temperature of about minus 6.7 C. It snows in the winter; the amount of snow varies from one year to the next. You will need to wear a heavy coat, a hat, gloves, and proper footwear in order to stay warm. Such items can be purchased in Mt. Pleasant after you arrive. Summers are warm, with temperatures reaching 32 degrees C or higher on some days. Michigan's average summer temperature is about 22 C. Spring and autumn are typically milder seasons, with temperatures between those of winter and summer.

13. *Is Mt. Pleasant a big city?*

Mt. Pleasant is a town of approximately 25,000 residents. It is located in a relatively rural part of Michigan, about 70 miles north of Lansing, the state capital, and about 150 miles northwest of the city of Detroit. During the academic year, Central Michigan University's students add about 19,000 more people to the town. Mt. Pleasant is in an excellent location in the center of Michigan's lower peninsula which provides access to shopping malls and cultural activities found in the state's larger metropolitan areas as well as the many outdoor activities made available by Michigan's lakes, ski resorts and wilderness areas.

14. *My country has an excellent railway system. Is train service available to Mt. Pleasant?*

Unfortunately, public transportation such as trains or buses is not as readily available in most areas of the United States as it is in many other countries, even for long distance travel. Americans depend greatly upon their automobiles for trips of all distances, from shopping trips in their own towns, to travel to other cities within their states, to travel to other states. The U.S. is very large and has many wide open spaces. For that reason, walking or riding a bicycle is often not feasible.

On CMU's campus, however, many students walk to classes and bicycles are frequently used as transportation, except in the winter when snow and ice can be a problem. The Isabella Country Transit Company (ICTC) operates local transit buses in Mt. Pleasant and the surrounding area at a reasonable price for those who do not own an automobile.

15. *How can I contact the College of Graduate Studies?*

We can be reached by e-mail at grad@cmich.edu, by fax at (989) 774-1857, or by telephone at (989) 774-4723. Our fax machine is on 24 hours a day; our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for considering Central Michigan University for your graduate education!