

Admissions Policy

The School of Architecture is an Eligible Institution under the Higher Education Act, 34

C.F.R. §§600.4(a)(2), 600.5(a)(3), 600.6(a)(2).

An eligible institution is defined as an institution that admits as regular students only persons who—

- Have a high school diploma; and/or
- Have the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma; and/or
- Are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is physically located.

The general university graduate admission eligibility requirements are as follows:

- **An earned baccalaureate and/or graduate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a U.S. recognized institutional accrediting agency, or international equivalent, verified from official transcripts.**
 - Enrollment beyond the first semester in any graduate program requires official transcripts showing degree conferral from all previously earned degrees, including undergraduate bachelor's degrees and higher, as well as any graduate coursework that you wish to be applied to your TSOA degree program.

- **A minimum 2.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale in baccalaureate study.**
 - The university, at its discretion, may, in evaluating the meeting of this requirement, additionally consider the difficulty of the baccalaureate degree, relevant work experience, any/ or other evidence of ability to succeed in graduate study.
 - For students with post-baccalaureate credits, a separate GPA is calculated for each institution.
 - For applicants whose initial post-secondary degree is a master's degree or higher (no baccalaureate degree earned), the university at its discretion, will evaluate those applicants based on that initial degree.

- **Submit all required admission documents by the deadline**

Admissions Policies for Graduate International Students

- In addition to the general admissions requirements, all international students must be familiar with the graduate admissions policy and must follow the following *additional* requirements when applicable.

Graduate Students with International Degrees

TSOA requires the equivalent of a four-year U.S. bachelor's degree from an appropriately accredited international institution of higher education for direct admission to a graduate degree program. All applicants who were educated outside the United States are required to submit an official credential evaluation. TSOA Admissions, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean, has final authority on equivalency of degrees.

- All transcripts from colleges or universities outside the United States must be translated into English, if applicable, and submitted to the Office of Admissions for evaluation.
- Graduate students' documents should show the award for either a bachelor's degree or equivalent, and/or a graduate degree, as applicable.
- All TSOA international graduate applicants must meet the University's English Proficiency requirements. We require all applicants whose first language is not English to adequately demonstrate English competency as a part of the application process. Students may demonstrate competency by submitting scores from IELTS (International English Language Testing System) or TOEFL. Our institution requires a minimum overall band score of 7.3 on the IELTS academic test.

- TSOA only accepts scores submitted electronically by the IELTS test center. No paper Test Report Forms will be accepted. An institutional code is NOT required. Please contact the test center directly where you took the IELTS test and request that your official test scores be sent electronically using the IELTS system. All IELTS test centers worldwide are able to send scores electronically to our institution.
- E-delivery Account Name: Carmen Kienow E-delivery Account Address
ckienow@theschoolofarchitecture.edu

Special Conditions for All International Applicants

Note the following:

- Federal regulations prohibit students on visitor visas (B-1 and B-2) from enrolling in school. Students who entered the United States on a visitor visa should not plan to study. For more information, contact the Student Services Coordinator at TSOA.
- Federal regulations prohibit F-2 spouses of F-1 students from engaging in full-time study, and F-2 children may engage in full-time study only from kindergarten through 12th grade. F-2 dependents may engage in study that is vocational or recreational in nature. F-2 dependents seeking to pursue full-time or degree study in the United States must change their status to F-1. For more information, contact OIPS.

- Students enrolled at the university in F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant status must maintain full-time enrollment each fall and spring semester. For undergraduate students, this means 12 credit hours each semester. Full-time status for graduate students is defined by the Office of the Dean. Because of this requirement, F-1 or J-1 international students do not qualify for part-time programs.
- Students in F-1 and J-1 status may enroll in online courses, but F-1 students may count only one online course toward full-time status. J-1 students may not count online courses toward full-time status. For the purpose of this regulation, an online course is one that the University Dean defines as online, for which no significant requirements (such as attendance, examinations, etc.) must be fulfilled in person.
- Admission for international students is offered for fall and spring terms.
- Prospective students who seek to enter the United States in F-1 or J-1 immigration status, or who seek to attend TSOA following attendance at another US school, must complete the Guarantee of Financial Support form. The form can be downloaded [online](#). The form and financial support documents must be submitted to the Admissions Office with the application.

- Students already in the United States should submit copies of immigration documents verifying current nonimmigrant status. This documentation should be submitted with the application for admission.
- Prior to issuing an I-20 or DS-2019 form, the University is required to verify that a student has sufficient financial support to pay for both educational and living expenses. If the source is a sponsor, confirmed funding must be documented for the first year of study, typically with a sponsor letter and current bank statement or a scholarship award letter or an assistantship offer. The source of funds for subsequent years must be shown, although for sponsored students a bank statement is required only for the first year. Students who are self-funded must show funds on deposit for the full term of their program. The Guarantee of Financial Support form gives an estimate of annual expenses, including tuition, living expenses, and health insurance; and it also explains what type of documentation is accepted.
- All new students admitted to the university must submit an Immunization Record Form signed by a healthcare provider.
- Financial sponsors who wish to be billed directly must provide a U.S. billing address. TSOA does not bill third parties overseas. It is the student's responsibility to make sure tuition and fees are paid on time.