

International Students FAQ

Q: How well known is Vassar?

A: Vassar is consistently ranked among the top one percent of colleges and universities in the United States and has been a frontrunner in higher education for nearly a century and a half. Numerous external ratings have confirmed Vassar's status as one of the most prestigious colleges in the United States. For example, the annual U.S. News & World Report college rankings consistently list Vassar as one of the top 15 colleges in the United States; The Wall Street Journal named Vassar "one of the new Ivies"; and the Princeton Review rankings recently called Vassar's students the happiest in the country and our campus one of the two most beautiful.

Q: Can I pay my enrollment deposit by wire transfer?

A: You may follow these instructions for a wire transfer:

HSBC Bank-Arlington Branch
1 LaGrange Ave.
Account #081-000-115
ABA Routing #021-001-088
Swift Code MRMDUS33

Please include the student's name (and Vassar ID# if possible) in your wire transfer information.

Q: How many international students are at Vassar?

A: International students at Vassar include non-citizens and U.S. citizens alike who have lived in or are from different nations. About 10% of Vassar students are international. The largest representation of our international students is from: the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Ecuador, Ghana, Greece, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Singapore, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

Q: Is there special advising for international students?

A: Vassar's Office of International Services (OIS) provides year-round assistance to all international students and scholars, including help with the visa/immigration process, workshops on summer and post-completion employment, and programming designed to help students adjust to life in the United States. Beyond the staff of the office, several wonderful student interns - who are international students themselves - are available (now and during the academic year) to answer any questions you may have.

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Q: Is there an International Student Blog?

A: Yes. Launched in Spring 2012, the international student blog is designed to keep international students and alumnae/i connected to one another and goes on at Vassar, as well as to provide a portal for new admits and prospects to get a glimpse of what the international campus community is all about.

Q: Is there an International Student Organization?

A: Yes. There is a student-run organization for all international students called VISA. There are a variety of student-run organizations for particular groups of students, such as the African Students Union, Asian Students' Alliance, Caribbean Students Association, Poder Latino, and the South Asian

Students Alliance (SASA). There are also a range of other organizations with an international focus, such as the Vassar Haiti Project, the Vassar Uganda Project, Save Darfur, and UNICEF. For more information, visit the Vsa.Vassar.edu Vassar website.

Q: Is there an orientation for international students?

A: Yes. International student orientation, a special, two-day orientation for international students, is scheduled to begin on Sunday, August 26. This orientation precedes (and will help prepare international students for) the New Student Orientation that all new students are expected to attend. More details to follow, but please do plan to arrive at Vassar on Saturday, August 25.

Q: Will Vassar award credit for my advanced program of study?

A: Students who earn scores of 5, 6, or 7 on Higher-Level International Baccalaureate exams are awarded credit. In the same manner, Vassar grants credit for high scores on certain foreign advanced programs of study such as the GCE A-levels, the German Abitur, the French Baccalaureate, etc. Vassar also accepts AP credits for scores of 4 or 5 on the AP exams.

Q: Is it possible to get a campus job?

A: There are many campus jobs available. Typically, financial aid students who desire a campus job will get one. During winter and summer academic breaks, international students get priority job assignment.

Immigration Issues

Once you have returned your signed [Candidate's Reply Card](#), enrollment deposit, and [I-20 Request Form](#) (also sent in the mail with your Admitted Student Packet), Vassar will forward your I-20 Form. We are pleased to announce that Vassar will pay the new \$200 SEVIS fee for all incoming international students. This fee will be required with all new visa applications. The decision to pay this fee was made to spare international students both the fee itself and the inconvenience involved. Important details to follow.

To enter the U.S. as a non-immigrant student, students applying for an F-1 student visa must have the "Certificate of Eligibility," or Form I-20. Once you receive the form, you will take the I-20 along with the SEVIS fee voucher, your passport and supporting documentation to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate to request the F-1 visa. For advice on the visa application and interview process, consult www.EducationUSA.info/pages/students/visa.php

Weather

Poughkeepsie weather is much like the temperate climate of New York City. Average temperature in the winter months is about 30°F (-1°C); while in the summer months about 75°F (24°C). We are not located in a 'snow-belt'; however, modest snowfall is the norm during the winter. We do experience all four seasons, so you need to be prepared for both warm and cold temperatures.

Transportation to Vassar

The majority of international flights into New York City will arrive at [JFK Airport](#), while a smaller number will arrive at either [LaGuardia](#) or [Newark-Liberty](#) airports. Public transportation is available from each of these airports to Poughkeepsie (more detailed information to follow). In addition, Vassar is pleased to provide transportation for students arriving from overseas from JFK Airport in New York to our campus in Poughkeepsie. More details will follow, but pick-ups will take place in the afternoon and evening on Saturday, August 25.

Additional Information

In early May, we will post a set of more detailed questions and answers on this website for enrolling students that will cover such topics as: money and banking; shopping; campus employment and social security numbers; immunization requirements and health insurance; departure checklist; directions to campus from all three major New York airports; items to bring to campus; cultural differences to expect, and more.

Questions?

Email us!

Andrew Meade: anmeade@Vassar.edu

Mariyah Salem: masalem@Vassar.edu

And the fabulous OIS interns: internationalservices@Vassar.edu