

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

# GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

[admit.uw.edu](https://admit.uw.edu)

A collage of images representing the University of Washington and Seattle. The collage includes the Space Needle, a city skyline, a modern building, a large fountain, and a large white 'W' logo. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping. The colors are primarily blue, green, and white, with some yellow and orange accents.

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# TALL STARTS IN SEATTLE

Nestled among mountains, forests, Lake Washington and the Pacific Ocean, Seattle is an urban hub surrounded by natural beauty. With a metro population of 3.9 million, it's a vibrant, multicultural city with career, arts, sports and outdoor opportunities for everyone.

The UW campus is about 6 km from the Seattle city center. Take the light-rail train downtown in just minutes — or stay on board for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.



Despite its rainy image, Seattle gets less annual rainfall than Shanghai, Seoul and Vancouver! Summer days are often sunny and dry.



# #1

**Best City for Outdoor Activities in America**  
*Niche, 2020*

# #1

**Washington is ranked the best state in the nation**  
*U.S. News & World Report, 2019*



Average high temperatures

# #1

**Most Educated Big City in U.S.**  
*Seattle Times, 2020*

## Jump-start your career here

Through internships and Optional Practical Training (OPT), you can get hands-on experience and find mentors to help guide you on your way. Our graduates start their careers all over the world, but many begin at well-known institutions right here in the Pacific Northwest.

amazon

Microsoft

STARBUCKS®

Funko

Google

NORDSTROM

tableau  
SOFTWARE

T-Mobile

facebook

BOEING

Expedia

Zillow

# WELCOME HOME

## Living on campus

You're not required to live on campus, but two-thirds of freshmen do. We have rooms and spaces for every price point and lifestyle. Get the details at [hfs.uw.edu](https://hfs.uw.edu), or see for yourself at [admit.uw.edu/visit](https://admit.uw.edu/visit).

## Center for International Relations & Cultural Leadership Exchange (CIRCLE)

No matter where they're from, UW students are part of a global society. CIRCLE helps bring international and domestic students together, providing activities, resources and support. [uw.edu/circle](https://uw.edu/circle)

## Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS)

Connections between people can build bridges between communities, cultures and nations. FIUTS promotes international understanding and community through activities, leadership training and homestays.

[fiuts.org](https://fiuts.org)

## Husky health and well-being

Nothing is more important than the security, health and well-being of our students. Explore campus safety, mental health, medical and recreation resources at [wellbeing.uw.edu](https://wellbeing.uw.edu).

## SafeCampus

Available 24/7, SafeCampus helps the UW community prevent crimes and respond to concerns. When you call SafeCampus, a trained, caring professional will listen and offer support and guidance.

[uw.edu/safecampus](https://uw.edu/safecampus)



## Cheer on the Huskies

**NCAA Division 1**  
[gohuskies.com](https://gohuskies.com)

### MEN:

Baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, rowing, soccer, tennis, track & field

### WOMEN:

Basketball, beach volleyball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, rowing, soccer, softball, tennis, track & field, volleyball



## Find your community

900+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS  
[huskylink.washington.edu/organizations](https://huskylink.washington.edu/organizations)

INTRAMURAL SPORTS  
[uw.edu/ima/intramurals](https://uw.edu/ima/intramurals)

RECREATION CLUBS  
[uw.edu/ima/rec-clubs](https://uw.edu/ima/rec-clubs)

## Our students

### SEATTLE CAMPUS, AUTUMN 2019

**47,571** total students

**31,041** undergraduate students (65%)

**8,118** international students (17%)

Average time to graduate: **4 years**

**54%** women / **46%** men

**113** countries represented

### TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| • Canada    | • Malaysia    |
| • China     | • South Korea |
| • Hong Kong | • Taiwan      |
| • India     | • Thailand    |
| • Indonesia | • Vietnam     |



#1

Most Innovative Public  
University in the World  
*Reuters, 2020*

#1

Public U.S. University That  
“Pays Off the Most”  
*CNBC, 2019*

#1

In Federal Research Dollars  
for U.S. Public Universities  
*Higher Education Research &  
Development Survey*

Participate in  
undergraduate research  
(2017–18)

9,045 students participated


1,584,236 hours

[uw.edu/undergradresearch](http://uw.edu/undergradresearch)

# RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

## Learn from the best, alongside the best

Top-ranked academics, hands-on research and internships — plus endless ways to feed your interests outside the classroom. No matter which challenges and curiosities you want to pursue, the UW will help you find them.



A Top Producer of Fulbright  
Scholars and Students

*Chronicle of Higher Education, 2019–20*

All 6 of the UW's health sciences schools — Dentistry,  
Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and  
Social Work — are ranked in the nation's

**TOP 10**

7

Nobel Prize winners  
among UW faculty

# ADMISSIONS



Admission to the UW is selective. Beyond grades, we consider an applicant's academic achievements and personal history, including rigor of curriculum, academic preparation, community service, leadership and personal accomplishments. Your choice of majors may also be used in the admission decision. The most competitive applicants will present a strong academic curriculum in a variety of subject areas, a high level of English proficiency, and personal achievements at school and in the community.

[admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman](http://admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman)

ADMISSION STATISTICS,  
AUTUMN 2020

Applications received  
**43,777** all freshmen  
**8,868** international freshmen

Offered admission  
**24,383** all freshmen  
**4,574** international freshmen

Enrolled (anticipated)  
**7,000** all freshmen  
**1,100** international freshmen

Average GPA of admitted  
international freshmen  
**3.83** on a 4.0-point scale  
**95.7** on a 100-point scale

Average TOEFL for admitted  
international freshmen  
**103** on a 120-point scale

Average IELTS for admitted  
international freshmen  
**7.4** on a 9.0-point scale

English proficiency

International students must submit an official TOEFL or IELTS score that meets the UW's minimum English proficiency requirement.\* Strong applicants will demonstrate a higher level of English proficiency and will have earned the recommended score (see table) to be exempt from the UW's Academic English Program (AEP). English proficiency is considered in the holistic review process. The exam must be taken on or before December 31, 2020, and scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the UW.

[admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman/how-to-apply/English-proficiency](https://admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman/how-to-apply/English-proficiency)

*\*Due to limited testing availability during the COVID-19 pandemic, the UW will accept a score of at least 105 on Duolingo's English Test ([englishtest.duolingo.com](https://englishtest.duolingo.com)) for autumn 2021 applicants. Test scores, including subscores, should be sent to the UW at the time you take the exam. Exams taken on or before December 31, 2020, will be considered.*

English proficiency  
exam required

	TOEFL (iBT)	IELTS
Minimum score required	76	6.0
Recommended score	92 or higher	7.0

Using SAT or ACT scores as an English proficiency alternative

The SAT and ACT are not required for admission, but they may be used to show English proficiency. The UW will consider the English proficiency requirement met for students who satisfy both of the following:

- A minimum grade of B in all high-school-level English writing or literature courses where English is the school's primary language of instruction for grades 10–12
- A minimum SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score of 580 or ACT English score of 22

College Academic Distribution Requirements

All applicants must complete these minimum course requirements, but the best prepared will go beyond them.

[admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman/cadr](https://admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman/cadr)

Subject	Credits*
Composition/literature	4
Mathematics	3
Social sciences/social studies	3
World languages	2
Science	3 (2 in lab science)
Senior year math-based quantitative course	1
Fine, visual or performing arts	0.5
Academic elective	0.5

\*1 credit = 1 year



Cost of attendance

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020–21 (SEPTEMBER–JUNE)

Full-time tuition & fees (nonresident)

**\$39,114**

Living expenses

**\$19,120**

A breakdown of costs is available online.

[admit.uw.edu/costs/coa](https://admit.uw.edu/costs/coa)

The UW does not provide financial aid or scholarships to undergraduate international students. It's important that all applicants review their expenses before deciding whether to apply for admission.



U.S. citizens & U.S.  
permanent residents

If you live or attend school outside of the U.S. but you hold U.S. citizenship or U.S. permanent residency, you are not considered an international student and do not need to submit English proficiency exam scores. All other admission requirements are the same.



READY TO APPLY?

[admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman](https://admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman)

Important dates  
for 2021 applicants

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**  
UW application opens  
(The Coalition Profile  
is always open)



**NOVEMBER 15, 2020**  
Application deadline

**DECEMBER 31, 2020**  
Deadline to take an  
English proficiency  
exam (required)

**MARCH 1–15, 2021**  
Notification of  
admission decisions

Application checklist

- Coalition Profile + UW questions
- US\$90 application fee
- English proficiency test scores (TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo)

Transcripts

The application will ask you to self-report your high school academic record and, in some cases, instruct you to upload a copy of your high school transcript.

Letters of recommendation

Please do not send letters of recommendation.

# PATHWAYS TO A MAJOR

## Choosing a major

**Consider your interests:** Which classes do you enjoy the most?

**Assess your abilities:** What are your strengths and challenges?

**Explore your options:** With over 180 majors at the UW, many paths can lead from a single interest. The program that's right for you might be one you haven't considered (or even heard of) yet.

## Admissions to majors

Some majors (such as computer science and engineering) are in high demand and require that you indicate them as your first-choice major. Others have more capacity and can accommodate all students who request them. Understanding which majors are open, which have minimum requirements and which are capacity-constrained will allow you to make an informed decision about your major. Your requested major may be used as a factor in your admission decision.

[admit.uw.edu/apply/admission-to-majors](https://admit.uw.edu/apply/admission-to-majors)

### Open majors +

These majors are open to you at the time of admission to the UW or anytime thereafter.

### Majors with minimum requirements =

These majors have additional admission requirements. Once you are a UW student and meet the minimum requirements, you can be admitted without further screening.

### Capacity-constrained majors ▲

Capacity-constrained majors have additional requirements and a selective screening process, which may include an additional application. Completing the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission to capacity-constrained majors. With the exception of computer science and engineering, you can apply to these majors once you are a UW student.

## Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

Most students earning computer science or computer engineering degrees from the UW will be admitted directly to the Allen School as freshmen. If you list computer science or computer engineering as your first-choice major on your UW application, you'll automatically be considered for direct admission. If you're not admitted directly as a freshman, it's unlikely you'll be admitted to computer science or computer engineering as a UW student.

## Engineering

If you're interested in an engineering degree, select an engineering major (or engineering-undeclared) as your first-choice major on your application. You will automatically be considered for Direct to College admission to the College of Engineering. If admitted Direct to College, you'll enter the UW with an "engineering undeclared" designation and can explore all engineering disciplines (except computer engineering; see above) before requesting placement in an engineering major. All engineering-undeclared students who meet the requirements are guaranteed placement into an engineering major. If you're not admitted directly to the College of Engineering as a freshman, it's unlikely that you will be admitted to any of the engineering majors as a UW student.

## ALLEN SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Computer Engineering ▲●●  
Computer Science ▲●

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Aeronautics & Astronautics ▲□●  
Bioengineering ▲●●  
*Data Science; Nanoscience & Molecular Engineering*  
Chemical Engineering ▲●●  
*Nanoscience & Molecular Engineering*  
Civil Engineering ▲●  
Electrical Engineering ▲●  
*Nanoscience & Molecular Engineering*  
Environmental Engineering ▲●  
Human Centered Design & Engineering ▲●●●  
*Data Science*  
Industrial Engineering ▲●  
Materials Science & Engineering ▲□●●  
*Nanoscience & Molecular Engineering*  
Mechanical Engineering ▲●  
*Biomechanics; Mechatronics; Nanoscience & Molecular Engineering*

## COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

### ARTS DIVISION

Art +●  
*Interdisciplinary Visual Arts; Painting & Drawing; Photomedia; Three-Dimensional Forum*  
Art History —□●  
Dance —□●  
*Creative Studies; Dance Studies*  
Design ▲●●  
*Industrial Design; Interaction Design; Visual Communication Design*  
Drama —●  
*Design; Performance*  
Music, B.A.\* ▲□●  
*American Music Studies; Early Music; Instrumental; Music History; Music Theory; Voice*  
Ethnomusicology, B.A. ▲●  
Guitar, B.M.\* ▲●  
Jazz Studies, B.M.\* ▲●  
Music Composition, B.M.\* ▲●  
Music Education, B.A.\* ▲●  
*Instrument; Vocal*  
Orchestral Instruments, B.M.\* ▲●  
Organ, B.M.\* ▲●  
Percussion Performance, B.M.\* ▲●  
*Orchestral Percussion*  
Piano, B.M.\* ▲●  
Strings, B.M.\* ▲●  
Voice, B.M.\* ▲●

### HUMANITIES DIVISION

Asian Languages & Cultures —□●  
Classical Studies +□●  
Classics +●  
Chinese —□●  
Cinema & Media Studies —●  
Comparative History of Ideas +□●  
Comparative Literature —□●  
Danish +□●  
English —□●  
*Creative Writing; Language & Literature*  
Finnish +□●  
French +□●  
Germanics —□●  
Greek +□●  
Italian +□●

Japanese —□●  
*Linguistics; Literature*  
Korean —□●  
Latin +□●  
Linguistics —□●  
*Romance Linguistics*  
Near Eastern Studies +□●  
*Comparative Civilizations; Hebrew Bible & Ancient Near Eastern Studies; Languages & Cultures*  
Norwegian +□●  
Scandinavian Area Studies +□●  
Slavic Languages & Literatures +□●  
*East European Languages, Literature & Culture; Russian Language & Literature*  
South Asian Languages & Literature (Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu) —□●  
Spanish —□●  
Swedish +□●

### NATURAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Applied & Computational Mathematical Sciences (ACMS) ▲●●  
*Biological & Life Sciences; Data Science; Discrete Mathematics & Algorithms; Engineering & Physical Sciences; Mathematical Economics & Quantitative Finance; Scientific Computing & Numerical Algorithms; Social & Behavioral Sciences*  
Applied Mathematics ▲●●  
Astronomy ▲●  
Biochemistry\* ▲●●  
Biology, B.A. ▲●●  
Biology, B.S. ▲●●  
*Ecology, Evolution & Conservation; General Biology; Molecular, Cellular & Developmental; Physiology; Plant*  
Chemistry, B.A., B.S.\* ▲□●●  
Computational Finance & Risk Management ▲●  
Mathematics, B.A. ▲□●  
*Philosophy; Teacher Preparation*  
Mathematics, B.S. ▲●  
Neuroscience\* ▲●●  
Physics ▲□●●  
*Applied Physics; Biological Physics; Comprehensive Physics; Teacher Preparation*  
Psychology, B.A., B.S. ▲●●  
Speech & Hearing Sciences ▲●●  
Statistics ▲□●●  
*Data Science*

### SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

American Ethnic Studies +●  
American Indian Studies —□●  
Anthropology, B.A. +□●●  
*Anthropology of Globalization; Archaeological Sciences; Human Evolutionary Biology; Indigenous Archaeology; Medical Anthropology & Global Health*  
Anthropology, B.S. +□●●  
*Archaeological Sciences; Human Evolutionary Biology; Medical Anthropology & Global Health*  
Asian Studies +●

Canadian Studies +□●  
Communication ▲●  
*Journalism & Public Interest Communication*  
Comparative Religion +□●  
Disability Studies (Individualized Studies) +□●  
Economics, B.A., B.S. ▲●●  
European Studies +□●  
Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies +□●  
Geography +□●●●  
*Cities, Citizenship & Migration; Environment, Economy & Sustainability; Globalization, Health & Development; GIS, Mapping & Society*  
History —□●  
*History of Empire & Colonialism; History of Race, Gender & Power; History of Religion & Society; History of War & Society*  
History & Philosophy of Science —●  
International Studies +□●  
Jewish Studies +□●  
Latin American & Caribbean Studies +□●  
Law, Societies & Justice ▲□●  
Philosophy —□●  
*Ethics*  
Political Science —□●  
*International Security; Political Economy*  
Sociology —●

## COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

Architectural Design ▲□●●  
Architecture\* ▲□●●  
Community, Environment & Planning ▲□●●●  
Construction Management\* ▲□●●●  
Landscape Architecture ▲□●●  
Real Estate —●

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood & Family Studies ▲●  
*Teaching & Learning*  
Education, Communities & Organizations ▲●

## COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Aquatic & Fishery Sciences +□●  
Atmospheric Sciences —□●  
*Chemistry; Climate; Data Science; Meteorology*  
Bioresource Science & Engineering ▲●●  
Earth & Space Sciences, B.A. +□●  
Earth & Space Sciences, B.S. +□●  
*Biology; Environmental Earth Sciences; Geology; Physics*  
Environmental Science & Terrestrial Resource Management +□●  
*Landscape Ecology & Conservation; Restoration Ecology & Environmental Horticulture; Sustainable Forest Management; Wildlife Conservation*  
Environmental Studies +□●  
Marine Biology +□●  
Oceanography, B.A., B.S. +□●

## EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE

Public Policy (minor only)

## FOSTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Business Administration\* ▲●  
*Accounting; Entrepreneurship; Finance; Human Resource Management; Information Systems; Marketing; Operations & Supply Chain Management*

## INFORMATION SCHOOL

Informatics\* ▲□●●●●  
*Data Science; Human-Computer Interaction; Information Architecture; Information Assurance & Cybersecurity*

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Medical Laboratory Science ▲●●  
Microbiology —□●●

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

Nursing ▲●

## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental Health ▲□●●●  
Food Systems, Nutrition & Health —●●●  
Public Health-Global Health ▲●●●

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Social Welfare ▲●●

## ALL DIVISIONS

Data Science (minor only)

Undergraduate majors:

[admit.uw.edu/majorslist](https://admit.uw.edu/majorslist)

### KEY

- + Open
- = Minimum requirements
- ▲ Capacity-constrained
- Minor available

*Italics* Indicate curricular options in the major.

- Arts, humanities and design
- Business
- Computing-related
- Engineering
- Health
- Natural and environmental sciences
- Social sciences

\* A small percentage of students are admitted to these majors directly as freshmen. The majority will be admitted through the standard admission process after enrolling at the UW.



Schmitz Hall / University of Washington  
1410 NE Campus Parkway  
Box 355852  
Seattle, WA 98195-5852

## More to explore

### **CREDIT POLICIES FOR AP, IB, AND A AND AS LEVELS**

[admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman/exams-for-credit](https://admit.uw.edu/apply/freshman/exams-for-credit)

### **TRANSFER ADMISSIONS**

[admit.uw.edu/apply/transfer](https://admit.uw.edu/apply/transfer)

### **WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENCY**

[registrar.uw.edu/students/residency](https://registrar.uw.edu/students/residency)

### **FINANCIAL AID FOR U.S. CITIZENS AND U.S. RESIDENTS**

[uw.edu/financialaid](https://uw.edu/financialaid)

### **GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

[grad.uw.edu/admissions](https://grad.uw.edu/admissions)

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

[ielp.uw.edu](https://ielp.uw.edu)

### **UW BOTHELL**

[uwb.edu/admissions](https://uwb.edu/admissions)

### **UW TACOMA**

[tacoma.uw.edu/uwt/admissions](https://tacoma.uw.edu/uwt/admissions)

## Take the next step

### **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

[admit.uw.edu](https://admit.uw.edu)

### **CONNECT | SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST**

[admit.uw.edu/join-the-mailing-list](https://admit.uw.edu/join-the-mailing-list)

### **ENGAGE | JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

[uw.edu/social](https://uw.edu/social)

### **VISIT | SEE FOR YOURSELF**

[admit.uw.edu/visit](https://admit.uw.edu/visit)

### **APPLY | DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

[admit.uw.edu/apply](https://admit.uw.edu/apply)