

Admissions for International Students

Deadline:

Applicants should consult the department website or CSU Apply for the current application deadline, though typically, the deadlines are **February 15** for fall and **September 15** for spring. **Note that this is one month earlier than the deadline for domestic applicants.**

Basic Procedures:

Applicants must submit an application online through Cal State Apply (<https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply>). The MA program accepts students for both the fall and spring semesters. Further information can also be found on the Cal State LA Graduate Application and Admission page (<https://www.calstate.edu/apply/graduate/Documents/graduate-application-guide-23-24.pdf>) as well as our own website (https://www.calstatela.edu/dept/pol_sci/ma-admissions.)

English language proficiency requirement:

There is an English proficiency requirement:

<https://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency>. The TOEFL requirement for grad students is "80 ibT or higher."

Students who graduated from an English-language speaking university abroad do **not** need to prove proficiency. Typically, students graduating from the following countries do not need a TOEFL score: *Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Ascension, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Canada (except Quebec), Cayman Islands, Dominica, England, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United States of America (U.S.), Wales, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*

Foreign Credit Evaluation Report:

Students must submit a foreign credit evaluation report from either International Educational Research Foundation (IERF) or World Education Services (WES) along with their application.

Please begin this process early to ensure the report arrives before the application deadline. Consult either <https://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/ierfves> or the direct links: <https://apply.ierf.org/> and <https://www.wes.org/evaluations-and-fees/education/graduate-admissions/>

Tuition:

International students should expect to pay around \$16,000 USD per academic year. There are limited opportunities for funding and fellowships, including Grader Assistant positions (GA) that pay roughly \$1,800 USD per semester. Please consult this website for specific fellowships: <https://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies/funding-opportunities>

Housing:

For housing, please consult: <https://www.calstatela.edu/housing>

General Admission Requirements:

In addition to university requirements for admission to graduate study, applicants must have:

- A grade point average in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units of 2.50 or better and a major in political science.
- Non-political science majors who have a GPA of 2.50 or better may be accepted on a conditional basis. To achieve classified status, non-political science majors must complete three prerequisite courses from the upper-division foundation core: POLS 3710, 3720, 3730, and 3740 (with a minimum 3.0 grade point average). Students will not receive graduate credit for these prerequisite courses.
- International students graduating from universities on a three-year as opposed to a four-year system will be required to take a qualifying program.
- Two letters of recommendation. At least one letter must come from a professor or an individual capable of evaluating the applicant's intellectual and academic qualifications.
- A statement of purpose. A letter is required stating the applicant's purpose in applying for graduate study, the particular area of specialization or interest (American politics, global politics, or political theory), any special research interests, plans for future occupation or profession, and any additional information that may aid the selection committee in evaluating the applicant's preparation and aptitude for graduate study at CSULA. The essay should be specific, well-organized, and well-written. The statement of purpose is considered an integral element of the application.
- The inclusion of a writing sample in the application is highly recommended but not required.