

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FAQ

LOCATION

Q: Where is Chatham located?

A: Chatham is located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which is home to numerous museums, shopping, theaters, as well as nine other universities. The city itself has 306,000 inhabitants while the total population of the surrounding area is 2.4 million. Fifty percent of the U.S. population lives within a 500-mile radius of Pittsburgh. VisitPittsburgh (www.visitpittsburgh.org) is a great resource to find out more about the numerous activities available in the region.

Q: How accessible is Pittsburgh?

A: Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT), which serves more than 14 million travelers annually, is 23 miles away from Chatham. For more information, visit www.flypittsburgh.com.

Q: What is the weather like?

A: Pittsburgh has four distinct seasons and is hot and humid in the summer and cold and snowy in the winter. July is the hottest month with a high of 85°F (29°C) and a low of 62°F (17°C). The coldest month is January with an average high of 37°F (3°C) and low of 20°F (7°C). Any of our students will tell you, every season on Chatham's campus is beautiful!

Q: Is Pittsburgh a safe city?

A: Based on recent FBI statistics, Pittsburgh is considered one of the safest large cities in the U.S. Chatham has a variety of safety programs in place for the benefit and protection of all community members. For example, if a student wants an escort from one place to another on campus, he or she only needs to call the Public Safety office to request one. Two Chatham police officers are on duty at all times. The University provides a free shuttle bus service for students and students are able to ride the Pittsburgh Port Authority bus system for free with their student ID.

ON CAMPUS

Q: How many international students are at Chatham?

A: As of September 2011, there were 113 international students on campus. Chatham has students from 44 different countries including Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, S. Korea, Canada, Vietnam, Mexico, and Nepal.

Q: Is there special advising for international students?

A: The Office of International Affairs at Chatham helps international students by clarifying university and immigration policies and procedures, providing services and activities to help them adjust to the U.S., helping them maintain legal status in the U.S., and assisting with residence life and dining concerns, etc. Prior to each semester, there is an international student orientation.

Q: What kind of academic support is there for international students?

A: Chatham offers year-round English instruction focused on academic preparation for college success. The Office of International Affairs can also put students in contact with tutors for specific subjects. There are also workshops for University success.

Q: Where will I be living?

A: Chatham has unique on-campus residence halls and winter housing. Many of our international students take advantage of living in Laughlin House, home of the Intercultural Living Learning Community. This housing option is open to all students who are interested in becoming more culturally and globally aware and to foster a cultural exchange between all residents of the house. Students, faculty, and staff collaborate to plan activities that will expose the residents to the differences and similarities that exist among cultures. Laughlin houses students in single, double, triple, and quad rooms. To review all housing options, visit www.chatham.edu/residencelife.

Q: What do I do if I need a doctor?

A: Student Health Services is staffed by a nurse. The nurse can provide you with a free health assessment, free over the counter medication, and also refer you to local health professionals.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Q: Who is considered an international student?

A: For purposes of applying for admission to Chatham, anyone who is not a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States is considered an international student.

Q: Who is eligible to apply as a student?

A: **Undergraduate** (first-time college or transfer student): Women of all ages who are graduates of secondary school systems worldwide or accredited international or American colleges or universities are encouraged to apply.

Graduate: Applicants should check the website for individual program requirements. All programs require at least an undergraduate degree from an accredited international or American college or university.

Q: Is there a separate international application for international students?

A: Non-U.S. citizens use the same application as American students. Students may apply online at www.chatham.edu/apply.

Undergraduate: Applicants use the Common Application or Chatham University Application Form.

Graduate: Applicants submit the Graduate Student Application for Admission. The Physician Assistant Studies and Doctor of Physical Therapy programs have their own online applications.

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: Undergraduate: We will accept applications throughout the year. To receive priority consideration, however, students should apply by March 15 for the fall term and by November 1 for the spring term.

Graduate: Deadlines vary per program, however we advise you to complete your application at least three months prior to your program start date in order to have adequate time for immigration processing.

Q: Which tests are required?

A: Undergraduate: Chatham requires the TOEFL, IELTS, or SAT. A TOEFL score is required for any student for whom English is not the primary language.

Graduate: International students should submit either a TOEFL or IELTS score. Additionally, the Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Psychology in Counseling Psychology programs require the GRE.

Q: What is the minimum English requirement?

A: Undergraduate: For unconditional acceptance, the following TOEFL scores are required: 550 (PBT) or 79 (IBT). An IELTS score of 6.5 also permits unconditional acceptance. Conditional acceptance is offered to students with TOEFL scores of 500 (PBT) or 61 (IBT) or an IELTS score of 6.0 or below.

Graduate: For unconditional acceptance, a student must achieve a TOEFL score of 600 (PBT) or 100 (IBT) or an IELTS score of 7.0. Conditional acceptance can be considered with a TOEFL score of 550 (PBT) or 85 (IBT) or an IELTS of 6.5.

Q: Will Chatham award credit for my advanced program of study (i.e., AP or IB)?

A: Chatham grants course credit for scores of 4 or 5 on AP (Advanced Placement) exams. With regard to the IB (International Baccalaureate), a score of 5, 6, or 7 on a subject examination at the higher level results in 6 Chatham credit hours in that subject; a score of 4 at the higher level will not result in a transfer of credits but may result in advance placement as determined by a departmental review.

Q: Will Chatham evaluate my school transcripts and academic records?

A: No. International secondary and post-secondary credentials from an educational system other than the United States must have a course-by-course evaluation by a foreign credential evaluation service, which is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services. The cost of the evaluation is the responsibility of the applicant.

FINANCES

Q: Can the application fee be waived for international students?

A: Yes, the application fee can be waived for international students who express financial hardship. There is no fee for submitting an application online. To apply online, visit www.chatham.edu/apply.

Q: Does Chatham award financial aid to international students?

A: Full-time international students are eligible to work on campus. There are a limited number of positions for students in the Chatham College for Women and the College for Graduate Studies.

Undergraduate: There are two scholarships available for international students – Chatham International Merit Scholarships and Chatham International World Ready Women Scholarships.

Graduate: Graduate applicants may apply for an Assistantship. All programs are eligible except for the physical therapy, physician assistant, and occupational therapy programs. Please visit www.chatham.edu/financialaid for details on these opportunities as well as links to additional financial aid and scholarship websites.

Q: Why do I need to provide a bank statement indicating that I can pay tuition?

A: This is to show that you have the financial resources needed to cover the cost of attending Chatham.