

Frequently Asked Questions Undergraduate Exchange Program (FAQs)

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Frequently Asked Questions for the Undergraduate Exchange Program

For whom is this program intended?

The Undergraduate Exchange Program is designed to award Pakistani citizens enrolled at a Pakistani university. This program offers cultural/academic exchange through a non-degree program for a semester/year at a university in the U.S. Applicants must be citizens of Pakistan who permanently reside in Pakistan. Students enrolled in either, a four year bachelor's program or a two year bachelor's programs are eligible to apply for the program. Students who have completed a two year bachelors and are enrolled in the first year of their Master's degree are also eligible to apply (only applicable to students who have previously completed a two year Bachelor's). All disciplines are eligible to apply. The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) especially seeks applications from individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and remote areas who would not otherwise have such an opportunity. Women, minorities and people with disabilities are also especially encouraged to apply.

AGE LIMIT: 25 years

What is included in the Undergraduate exchange grant?

The grant funds tuition, textbooks, airfare, a living stipend, accommodation and health insurance

If I'm selected when will I begin studies in the US?

Fall 2011 or Spring 2012

Application

I received an application form/printed out an application form from the website <http://www.usefpakistan.org/UndergraduateExchangeProgram.html>. Now what do I do?

Before beginning to fill out the application form, it is imperative that you read the application in its entirety as well as the instructions that accompany it. The instructions provide specific information about completing certain points of the application. Be sure to fully complete the application form. If a section does not apply to you, please write "Not Applicable".

Do I have to take the TOEFL?

Applicants will be required to take the TOEFL after their selection has been finalized and will be notified by USEFP.

I'm doing a two year bachelor's degree am I eligible?

As long as you are in your first year and have a year remaining to complete your degree.

I have completed a two year bachelor's and now enrolled in a master's program, can I apply for this program?

Yes, as long you are in your first year and have a year remaining to complete your degree.

Note: Applicants are eligible to apply for this program if they have between 13-15 years of formal education. Education until Intermediate level is counted as 12 years of formal education.

I am a medical student, can apply for this program?

Yes, you are eligible to apply for the program as long as you are in the first, second or third year. You may apply in the fields outlined in the “Special Instructions” section to be with the application form on our website: <http://www.usefpakistan.org/UndergraduateExchangeProgram.html> . Please note that you will not be studying medicine in your program in the US if you are selected.

I have previously gone on a student exchange program?

Applicants who have previously been on another exchange program in the past two years are not eligible to apply for this program. Students with no prior foreign experience are preferred.

I understand that I must submit two letters of reference. Whom should I ask to write such a letter?

Consider asking teachers, advisors, or other professionals who are familiar with you and your work. If you are currently working /interning, ask your supervisor or other professional. Family members or other relatives are not eligible to write letters of reference. **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE THE REFERENCE LETTER YOURSELF AND JUST ASK YOUR REFEREE TO SIGN IT.** It is usually obvious when this has been done and it reduces the value of the reference.

Should referees send our reference letters directly to USEFP, or can they be sent with our application form?

Reference letters should be sent directly to USEFP by your referees in sealed envelopes. It is important that your referees should clearly mention the name of the program the applicant is applying for and the applicant’s name.

How will I know that my application was received?

The USEFP Office will notify you of receipt of your application by email. This may take some time as there are many applications to process. Please do not phone or email to check.

Should I send my original documents with my application form?

Please send **attested photocopies** of all your documents (transcripts, degrees, certificates, etc.)

Selection

How does the selection process work?

Applications will be reviewed in four stages:

Round 1: All applications will be screened by USEFP staff for completeness and minimum qualifications.

Round 2: Complete applications that meet the minimum qualifications will be evaluated according to a set of established criteria and short listed.

Round 3: In-person interviews of short-listed applicants will take place in Islamabad between January and February 2011. The interview panels are made up of both U.S. and Pakistani citizens.

Round 4: Final candidates and alternates will be selected in April-May, 2011. Applicants who have become finalists or alternates will be notified by telephone. Those who have not will be notified by mail.

Final approval is given by the higher authorities in the U.S.

After Selection

Will I need to submit any additional documents if I become a finalist?

Yes, finalists will be required to submit a completed Medical History and Examination Form.

Can I defer my grant to the following academic year?

No, you cannot defer. You can, however, decline the grant and reapply at a later date.

Will I have to get admission to a university on my own?

No, The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) will find an appropriate placement for you.