

Graduate Studies FAQs

Graduate Student FAQs

In the FAQs you will find the most frequently asked questions regarding applications, the admissions process, the need for letters of reference, financial aid and scholarships, and international student applications. All applicants are encouraged to read through our FAQs prior to sending any enquiries or submitting applications.

FAQ: Application

Application Questions

Q: I have just applied and I have not yet received my student ID or an acknowledgement by email from Algoma University. When will I receive this?

An automated email will be sent once your application has been received and is in processing.

Q: Can my application fee be waived?

All application fees are required at the time the application is submitted. Please note that applications will not be processed or sent to the School of Graduate Studies unless payment is received by Algoma University.

Q: Can I send the School of Graduate Studies my documents to be pre-assessed for eligibility before I apply?

To be fair to all applicants and due to the high volume of applications we receive, we do not pre-assess documents for eligibility. Any document submissions without an official application will not be processed or assessed until a full application is received.

Q: Can I still apply after the deadline?

Yes, we may still accept applications after the deadline, however you will not be considered for an entrance scholarship. All applications received after the deadline will be contingent depending on

program availability and seats open for consideration. Please refer to the specific program you are interested in for information on deadlines, as they vary for each program.

Q: Can I still apply if I don't meet one or all of the admission requirements?

Yes, all are welcome to apply. All applications will be thoroughly reviewed and all factors of an application are taken into consideration. However, preference will be given to applicants who exceed the minimum requirements for admission into their chosen program.

Q: Can I apply for more than one program? If so, do I have to pay for each application?

Yes, applicants can apply to multiple graduate programs. You are required to pay the application fee for each application submitted.

Q: Where do I upload my required documents?

Documents must be uploaded to the [University portal](#). Refer to your application acknowledgement email for instructions on submitting documents.

Q: Do I need to submit my official transcripts?

Yes, you need to submit an official transcript with your application.

Previous or current Algoma University students do not need to submit a transcript for degree and course work completed at Algoma University. Official transcripts must be submitted for any course work completed at another institution – i.e.) study abroad, letter of permission (taking an approved course at another accredited university), transfer credit. In some cases we may require transcripts to be submitted if the graduation date was prior to 2008.

Q: Can I submit a WES Application?

Yes. Algoma University will accept documents verified by WES (World Education Services). Once received from WES, authenticated transcripts will be assessed by the Algoma University School of Graduate Studies for eligibility. We must receive the official document directly from WES. In some cases we do accept other evaluation services, however, it is advisable to check with us prior to submitting.

Q: How long do documents take to be added to my application?

Documents will be required to be submitted by the application deadline. Please do not email the School of Graduate Studies for request on document status or receipt of delivery. Due to the number of applicants, we may not be able to respond to individual requests.

Q; Can I get my transcripts back?

No. Once supporting documents are submitted they become the property of Algoma University and cannot be returned.

Q: How do I check the status of my application?

Applicants can track the status of documents and their application through the [Algoma University Website](#). It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor the status of all their documents to ensure all required documents and materials are received before the program deadline. You can review the required documents needed for your application under the academics tab on your account to see what documents we have received and which ones are still pending.

Q: I am an international student who is proficient in English. Do I still need to submit an English proficiency test?

Proficiency in the English language, both written and oral, is required for international students whose primary language of instruction was not English, and who wish to pursue graduate studies at Algoma University. It is required that applicants demonstrate an appropriate level of English proficiency, regardless of their citizenship status or country of origin. We must receive a test score to complete an application.

<i>English Language Requirements [for International Students]</i>
IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, no band lower than 6.5 [reading, writing, listening and speaking]
TOEFL (IBT): 93 overall, CBT: 230 overall
Cambridge Assessment Test [CAE]: 176
Canadian Academic English Language [CAEL]: 60
Pearson Test of English [PTE]: 63

Four [4] or more years of full-time studies in an approved postsecondary school (outside Canada). The first degree must have been completed in English from a recognized institution where English was the primary language of instruction.

Four [4] or more years of full-time studies in a recognized postsecondary institution in Canada.

Duolingo English Test [DET]: 110, no band lower than 100

*Please note that tests must have been taken within the last 24 months at the time of application submission to be considered. Algoma University reserves the right to request English language proficiency results from any applicant.

Q: I am an international student who has attended an English-speaking institution previously. Do I qualify for a waiver for the English proficiency test requirement?

Applications will be accessed on an individual basis depending on the education completed.

If exemption is considered, we may require a letter accompanying your official transcript sent directly from your university.

Q: I am a Permanent Resident; do I need to complete the English proficiency test?

The requirement to complete an English proficiency test will be decided on a case-by-case basis for applicants who are Permanent Residents.

*Please note that Algoma University reserves the right to request English language proficiency results from any applicant. If this is required, the School of Graduate Studies will notify the applicant accordingly.

FAQ: References (Thesis-based programs only)

Q: My referee has not received their link for my reference form. When will they get it?

Three letters of recommendation from referees (referees are individuals who have had an academic or professional relationship with you and who are able to comment on your abilities, achievements, and potential for success in graduate studies) familiar with your work as a student or your life experience, sent directly to the Office of Registrar (graduateadmissions@algonau.ca; documents should be addressed to the attention of the Graduate Admissions and Support Specialist). It is the

student's responsibility to give their referees the instructions for reference letters, including the due date and email address for submitting a reference letter.

Q: Can you remind my references about sending my reference form?

Reminder emails will not be sent by the School of Graduate Studies. It is the student's responsibility to monitor the submission of their reference forms on the [application portal](#). References must be received by the application deadline to ensure that your application is complete.

FAQ: Admission

Q: My application is now marked as 'pending decision'. When will I find out if I am admitted?

The status of your application will change from 'applied' to 'pending decision' once the School of Graduate Studies confirms the application is complete. Complete applications are examined and evaluated for admission by the appropriate graduate programs. The timeline for this process varies by graduate program and is affected by the volume of applications received. All applicants will be officially notified by email of the action taken on their application.

*Please note that all admission decisions are final; there is no appeal of admission decisions.

Q: Do I have to pay a deposit upon acceptance?

A deposit is required to hold your space in a graduate program at Algoma University. Please refer to your letter of offer to confirm the deposit amount and due date.

This is a condition of admission. If a deposit is not paid, the School of Graduate Studies reserves the right to revoke the admission and offer the spot to another qualified applicant.

Q: Can I ask for a deferral on my offer of admission or change my intake date?

To be considered for a deferral, the applicant has not previously requested to defer. Deferrals may be granted on a case-by-case basis but are not guaranteed. Conditions may be required.

Q: How much is the tuition and fees for my program?

Applicants can find current tuition and fees for graduate programs on this [page](#).

FAQ: Financial Aid and Scholarships

Q: Where can I find information on scholarship opportunities at Algoma University?

Students offered admissions in June will be invited to apply for scholarships. Eligible graduate students may qualify for up to \$5,000 per academic year in scholarships. Students holding large internal or external awards valued at \$15,000 or more per year are not eligible.

Eligible students will also be able to apply for other awards during their program. Students in receipt of large internal or external awards are eligible to apply for other awards.

[In the case of major scholarship competitions, students currently registered at Algoma University must meet an earlier deadline set by the University. Application forms and information regarding external scholarships may be obtained from the School of Graduate Studies. NOT APPLICABLE FOR 2023]

Full-time students entering a second year of graduate study at Algoma University, or those planning further study at another university, are strongly encouraged to apply for external funding. External scholarships are awarded on academic merit, not financial need. Please visit our graduate scholarships page for more information.

Q: As an international student, can I get a scholarship to cover all my tuition and living costs while attending Algoma University?

At Algoma University, all eligible graduate students in thesis-based programs may be offered competitive funding for support in their studies. Eligible graduate students in course-based programs may be eligible for limited scholarship funding.

FAQ: International Students

Q: Can I defer my Graduate Teaching Assistant position offer?

Graduate Teaching Assistantships are normally offered only in the fall and winter terms, although a limited number may be available for the spring/summer term. If you are unable to accept your Graduate Teaching Assistant position for the term it was offered in your admission letter, you must decline the position offer; you cannot defer the position.

Q: What happens to a financial credit on my student account?

Any outstanding credits will be applied against future tuition/fees.

Q: I am an international student - where do I find information on study permits?

Information for international students can be found on the [International Students webpage](#).

Q: What health insurance do I need as an international student?

International students who study at one of Ontario's post-secondary institutions are mandated by the government to be enrolled in the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). For information on UHIP coverage, please visit the [UHIP page](#). Here you will also find information about the supplemental Student VIP coverage.

Q: Am I able to opt out of UHIP coverage if I am not in Canada?

Graduate programs are offered in person, therefore UHIP fees are required. International Contact uhip@algonau.ca for further information.



