

August 2021

Dear Colleagues,

For so many years, you have known American University (AU) as a highly selective institution that welcomes students from across the world. I am pleased to provide you with an update on a number of new initiatives at AU that are intended to expand our outreach to talented international students. These include our membership in the International University Alliance (IUA), the International Accelerator at American University (IAP), and American Collegiate (formerly American Access). Through these affiliations and programs, we are creating paths to AU for students who are talented but who need additional support prior to becoming degree-seeking students. Below is more information about each of these initiatives:

The International University Alliance (IUA) is a network of US higher education institutions offering transition programs (International Accelerator programs) that lead to a four-year degree at member institutions. The International Accelerator programs offer English language skills in conjunction with academic courses, facilitate success, and support the transition of international students studying at these member institutions. AU is one of 14 higher education institutions that comprise the IUA. Representatives recruiting for the IUA are based worldwide and will likely be visiting with you to talk more about the member institutions (including AU), their programs, and services—exposing you and your students to the many options available through this network. You will hear about AU as a member of this alliance along with the other member universities. To learn more about the IUA and its member institutions, visit: <https://www.iua.org>.

International Accelerator Program at American University (IAP) is a demanding one-year transition program that combines intensive English language instruction with coursework and supplemental resources that help fully integrate students into the university and their campus community. It is a pathway program that is designed to prepare students for degree-seeking status at AU. The IAP offers two tracks and an advanced sub-track that combine contextual, discipline-specific English-language instruction, program coursework, and supplemental support resources. All programs provide comprehensive academic, cultural, and social support. By building upon and leveraging existing university resources, these programs help ensure international student success at American University and beyond. The International Accelerator includes the Advanced Academic Accelerator Program (two semesters), the Academic Accelerator Program (two semesters) and the Extended Accelerator Program (three semesters). Program placement depends on the student's academic background, level of English-language proficiency, and personal preferences. Upon successful completion of the first-year International Accelerator program and meeting academic performance requirements for progression into their intended major, students enter their second year at American University as degree-seeking students, visit <http://www.auaccelerator.com> to learn more about the International Accelerator Program at American University.

American Collegiate (formerly American Access)

American Collegiate program is a non-degree program intended for first-year students who are seeking the academic, cultural, and English-language support to succeed at very competitive U.S. universities. Based at American University in Washington, DC, students will pursue a program that will include two to three semesters of credit-bearing course work, along with English language and other support. Additionally, these students will receive counseling that will facilitate a seamless transfer to any university (including AU, if they so choose).

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is a best fit for direct entry into American University for degree-seeking status?

American University's International Admissions team takes a holistic approach in its review of candidates for admission. We value the student's academic performance over all years in high school and use the application to determine the student's fit with AU. In general, students with a strong academic performance and rigor, (cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or better) with strong English language proficiency (minimum TOEFL of 85/IELTS of 6.5 with sub-scores of 20/6.0 or better), Duolingo English Test (DET) (minimum 115 with each sub-scores 105 or higher) or Cambridge Assessment English 176 or higher with sub-scores 169 or higher are competitive candidates for direct entry and should be counseled to apply directly to AU if they so choose. AU also offers partial merit scholarships on a competitive basis. No separate application is required for these awards. Additionally, we offer the AU Emerging Global Leader Scholarship, which covers full tuition, room, and board, for one international student (F-1 or J-1 student visa holder). For more information, please visit <https://www.american.edu/admissions/international>.

Who should be directed to the International Accelerator at American University?

Students with a strong academic performance (unweighted GPA of 3.0 or better) who need English-language proficiency support (minimum TOEFL of 68/IELTS of 5.5 with sub-scores of 14/5.0 or higher), Duolingo (DET) minimum of 90 with sub-scores 80, or Cambridge Advanced English 162-168 are ideal candidates for the International Accelerator at AU. Students may enter the International Accelerator at AU one of two ways: direct entry applicants to AU may be referred to the IAP based on our review and assessment of their English proficiency, or students may apply directly to the program by contacting a local representative. Visit <http://www.auaccelerator.com/> for more information.

Who should be directed to the American Collegiate Program?

Students with an unweighted GPA of 2.5 or better and TOEFL of 68/IELTS of 5.5 with sub-scores of 14/5.0 or higher, Duolingo DET minimum scores of 90 with sub-scores 80, Cambridge Assessment 90 and sub-scores 80 or higher are eligible for admission into American Collegiate. This is a non-degree program for students who are interested in learning more about the U.S. style of higher education and who are interested in exploring their options at a variety of postsecondary institutions with the idea of pursuing transfer to a U.S. institution (including AU) following their completion of the American Collegiate Program. Visit <http://auaccess.american.edu/> for more information.

Best wishes,

Evelyn Levinson
Director, International Admissions
American University
Washington, DC

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